

THE Hongkong Weekly Press

AND China Overland Trade Report.

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CONTENTS.

Epitome of the Week, &c.	297
Leading Articles:—	
The Manchurian Convention	298
Indemnity and Commercial Concessions	299
A Decade of Foreign Trade in China	299
The Russo-American Tariff War	299
A Victoria Memorial in Hongkong	300
The Water Authority and the Rain	300
The Crisis: Telegrams	301
Hongkong Sanitary Board	301
Return of the Australian Naval Contingent	302
The Siege Train Inspection	303
The Missionaries and the Chinese	303
The Capture of Aguinaldo	303
A Point About the Manchurian Convention	304
Foochow Tea Trade	304
Theatre Royal	304
Canton	304
Tientsin	305
Correspondence	305
Change Doings	305
Punjom Mining Co., Limited	306
The Orient Hotel Company, Limited	306
Supreme Court	307
Hongkong Rifle Association	310
Royal Hongkong Golf Club	310
Royal Hongkong Yacht Club	310
Bowling	311
Curious Incident at Kobe	311
German View of the Russification of Manchuria	311
New Foreign Office Publication on China	311
Hongkong and Port News	312
Commercial	313
Shipping	315

BIRTHS.

The wife of Mr. F. H. HOERNKE, Smith's Villa E., Magazine Gap, Hongkong, of a son.
On the 26th March, at Medan, East Coast of Sumatra, the wife of H. M. RUTHERFORD, of a daughter.
At Ball's Court, Bonham Road, Hongkong, on the 10th April, the wife of H. D. NORONHA, of a daughter.

MARRIAGE.

At St. Peter's Church, Hongkong, on the 10th April, 1901, by the Rev. J. H. France, ROBERT CHAPMAN, fourth son of the late John CHAPMAN, of Slackdale Turriff, N.B., to ANNIE ELIZABETH TODD, second daughter of George A. TODD, of Darlington.

DEATHS.

At Hankow, on the 25th March, 1901, ELIZABETH HELEN, the infant daughter of Alfred and Helene BROWN, aged four months.
At Hankow, on the 28th March, COLIN ALFRED, son of Alfred and Helene BROWN, aged eighteen months.
At Ferryhill House, Aberdeen, on the 1st April, 1901, ALEX. G. J. CUMINE, aged 57 years.
At No. 24, Shelley Street, Hongkong, on the 5th April, 1901, DR. ALBERTO PEDRO DE CARVALHO, M.D.C.S., L.R.C.P., L.S.A., aged 41 years.
At Government Civil Hospital, on the 7th April, at 10.30 a.m., Captain JAMES FOWLER, of the steamer Phra Chom Klao.

Hongkong Weekly Press

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ARRIVAL OF MAILS.

The French mail of the 8th March arrived, per M. M. steamer *Yarra*, on the 11th April (34 days).

EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

It is reported that Russia is increasing her naval force in the Far East by a fleet of vessels comprising seven ironclads and seven cruisers.

H.M.S.S. *Aurora*, *Arethusa* and *Linnet* left Hongkong harbour during the week to take part in the reception of the Duke and Duchess of York and Cornwall at Singapore.

President McKinley has directed Mr. Root, Secretary for War, and Adjutant-General Corbin to proceed to Manila and to report on the military condition of the Philippines.

The *Echo de Chine* understands the departure of M. Pichon, French Minister to China, has been delayed. He will only leave the capital on the arrival of his successor, M. Beau, who has been nominated for the post.

It is reported from Nagasaki that a British cruiser will carry Mr. Gubbins, of the British Legation at Tokyo, to Masampo and Mokpo where he is going on a tour of inspection.

A telegram to the Japanese *Nichi Nichi* from Tientsin at the end of last month reports that talk of the partial withdrawal of the allied troops has been almost abandoned at present; but if an attempt is made to put the plan in operation the German and French will leave a comparatively large force behind. The French will station a sufficient force to garrison Paoiting and to hold the railway between the city and Peking.

Mr. William A. Rublee, one of the editors of the Milwaukee *Sentinel*, who succeeds the late Mr. Rounseville Wildman as Consul-General for the United States to Hongkong, leaves San Francisco for this port on the 17th inst. by the Pacific Mail steamer *China*. The appointment has not yet been officially confirmed from Washington, but Mr. W. F. Aldrich, Vice Consul-General, has received a private intimation announcing it. Mr. Rublee made a good record as Consul at Prague during the Harrison administration.

The following reform programme is stated to have been agreed upon by the Chinese Viceroy and Governors:—(1) Princes and nobles shall go abroad for study; (2) Graduates shall study abroad before becoming officials; (3) All examinations require thorough and reasonable revision; (4) More schools and colleges are required; (5) The Army must adopt foreign drill; (6) The three years' limit of office must be abolished in the case of deserving officials; (7) The model recommended for the police is the police force at Shanghai; (8) The Imperial Post must be extended over the whole Empire; (9) The silver dollar shall be the universal legal tender.

The Patriotic Committee of gentry, etc., at Shanghai, who protested against the Russian convention received on the 28th ult., through Yuan Taotai, the following telegram dated 27th March, bearing the Viceregal seal of Szechuan and sent by H.E. K'uei Chun, Viceroy of that province: "I desire to acknowledge the receipt of a joint telegram from the gentry and merchants residing in Shanghai and I entirely agree with their sentiments. I have already telegraphed for them to the Grand Council requesting that the matter be memorialised to the Throne. I beg that you (Yuan Taotai) will inform the gentlemen concerned of this. (L. S.) K'uei Chun."

General Chaffee telegraphed this week to Washington that the opposition of the United States and Russian commanders to the dismantling of the Taku Forts has been futile. Count von Waldersee led the other commanders in the voting, and nine forts have been dismantled.

Our London correspondent telegraphed on the 10th inst.: Mr. Rockhill reports to Washington that the claims of the Powers on China aggregate 500 million dollars. Mr. Rockhill has been instructed strenuously to oppose the demands of certain Powers. Mr. Hay suggests that the Powers assent to a fifty per cent. reduction, recouping themselves by additional commercial concessions from China.

A *New Press* telegram, dated Peking, 29th March, says that it is now decided that the British forces in Peking are to evacuate. Headquarters will be transferred to the Summer Palace five miles north-west of Peking, with a portion of the forces, and the remainder of the troops will go to Peitaho as soon as the warm weather begins. Peking is declared to be quite untenable through the summer, for sanitary reasons, and only the most urgent political considerations could keep the forces here. These do not now exist. It is expected the Emperor will more readily come to Peking in consequence of this decision.

It is difficult, says the *Japan Mail*, to discern the truth about the McLeavy Brown affair. We cannot doubt that hostile influences are constantly exerted against him in Seoul, and that he would long ago have ceased to hold his post had he not been vigorously supported by British officialdom. Hence doubts are justly cast on the assertion that the Korean Court's recent endeavour to remove him was due to a paltry question about the site of his house. Another account says that he had given offence by refusing to sanction a large grant of money on account of an extension of the Palace buildings. At all events the Korean authorities seem to have made a very resolute attempt to displace him, but they have not succeeded, for the latest accounts indicate that the trouble is likely to be adjusted. Mr. Brown's agreement has still six years to run. The latest news is that Mr. McLeavy Brown has been reinstated.

Russia, in an identical Note to the Powers on the 3rd instant, says that, as any special agreement on the subject of Manchuria might involve the neighbouring Empire in difficulties, instead of serving as a proof of Russia's friendliness towards China, Russia does not insist on such agreement, but renounces all possible negotiations about Manchuria, and in the meantime quietly awaits the course of events, whilst adhering to her oft-repeated programme. The St. Petersburg *Official Messenger*, writing to the same effect as the Note, adds that it is manifest that the eventual restoration of Manchuria will be possible only when the normal situation in China is completely restored and a central government established in the capital strong enough to guarantee Russia against a recurrence of the events of last year. The *Rossiyskiy*, commenting on the indefinite postponement of the Convention, would like the foreign Press to answer conscientiously who it is that causes the occupation, Russia or the Allied Powers, who are always dreaming that it is the Russian intention to annex Chinese territory.

THE MANCHURIAN CONVENTION.

(Daily Press, 5th April.)

The welcome news which we were able to publish yesterday morning with regard to the Manchurian Convention does not of course indicate the settlement of this most difficult question. It is satisfactory, however, that Russia has failed in her attempt to intimidate China and to bribe her officials into the sacrifice of a most important province, entailing almost inevitably the concession of similar privileges in other provinces to other Powers, if not an absolute break-up of the Empire. To whom the credit of this diplomatic defeat of Russia is due is a matter of dispute. According to the *Times* correspondent, the opposition of the Yangtze Viceroy has brought about the fortunate result. In this connection it is interesting to note that the *North-China Daily News* publishes a list, stated to come from a reliable official source, of the high provincial officials who have protested against the signature of the Convention by China. At the head of the list come the two great Viceroy, LI KUNG-YI, of the Liangkiang, and CHANG CHI-TUNG, of the Hukuang provinces, the steadfast opponents of LI HUNG-CHANG and his supporters. Then follow the Viceroy TA O MU, of the Two Kwang; HSU YING-KUEI, of the Min-che; KUEI CHAN, of Szechuen; and WEI KUANG-TAO, of the Yun-kuei. LI HUNG-CHANG and SUNG FAN, the Manchu Viceroy of the Shen-kai provinces, are the only two Viceroy who have not protested against the Convention. Among the Governors, seven out of fifteen have protested, being those of Shantung, Anhwei, Kiangsu, Kwangtung, Chekiang, Shensi, and Kweichow. These, as the *North-China Daily News* observes, are the Governors of the more important provinces of the Empire; and it is therefore a reason for satisfaction that they are alive to the importance of the question involved. There can be no doubt that the stream of protests from the majority of the influential officials of the Empire had a very great effect on the Court, sufficient indeed to counteract the interested representations of LI HUNG-CHANG and the Russophil party. The latter seem to have played their game very skillfully in representing the advantages to be gained by China through the Russian alliance, but the patriotism of their opponents has conquered, and the great act of aggression appears to have been stopped. It is also claimed that the strong attitude taken up by Japan relieved the situation, and indeed it cannot be denied that it is extremely probable that the representations from Tokyo had weight with the fugitive Court. Japan's threat that compensating advantages would be necessary for her, if Russia were to secure the signature of the Manchurian Convention, was too obviously genuine to be disregarded. And, as we have pointed out before, Japan would require compensation within the limits of the Eighteen Provinces, the fulfilment of which demand would be the beginning of the end for China.

Although China appears to be saved for the time from the "friendship" of Russia, it is clear that the Manchurian question is as far from settlement as ever. In a leading article recently the Shanghai native journal *Su Pao* pleaded for an International Convention for the preservation of the integrity of Manchuria, and it seems impossible that peace can be secured without the Powers coming to some arrangement in the matter. Russia, having secured, with the acquiescence of the Powers and China, the right to

have a railway line running down to Port Arthur and Talienwan, plainly has the right also to demand that the safety of the line shall be guaranteed. China being unable to guarantee this safety, Russia can plausibly maintain that she must guard the line with troops. But this is a very different matter from the annexation of the whole of Manchuria, under a worthless promise of restoring the province to China when peace is effectively secured. If the Powers were now to admit Russia's right to occupy Manchuria temporarily, it is easy to see that circumstances are quite likely to arise which would render the withdrawal of Russian troops perilous alike to the railway and to the natives of the province. Stripped as Manchuria would be, by the Russian stipulations, of Chinese military forces, the result could only be that the elements of disorder would have everything their own way, if and when the Russians left. Presuming that Russia desired to act with perfect good faith, she would probably find it impossible to fix a period for evacuating the occupied territory, and the result would be exactly the same as if she were only promising evacuation to quiet the Powers, as most of us are inclined to think she is. Once mistress of Manchuria, she could only be ousted, if at all, after a terrible struggle, which no Power would be prepared to face. The obvious course, therefore, has been to prevent the occupation being acknowledged by China. The Court has been goaded into an attitude of firmness, and is now showing a bold front to Russia. It remains for the other Powers to support China, for it is absurd to imagine that Russia will be easily beaten. To cope with Russia's diplomatic resources, China must be able to rely on more than the lukewarm sympathy of the other nations interested in the integrity of Manchuria.

(Daily Press, 10th April.)

Russia's abandonment of the Manchurian Convention, as conveyed in her identical note to the Powers on the 3rd instant, has the effect of relieving the acuteness of the crisis. Russia has not insisted on showing her friendliness to China by extorting her signature to a most one-sided agreement, disastrous to China and unjust to the other Powers. But, although the objectionable Convention is given up, the situation remains anything but clear. Russia announces her intention of quietly awaiting the course of events, while adhering to her oft-repeated programme. It would be satisfactory to know what is this "programme," for it is probable that the interpretations put upon it by St. Petersburg and London may vary very considerably. It seems, however, that Russia means to declare her intention of remaining in military occupation of Manchuria until peace is secured. Up to a certain point Russia's claim is reasonable. There is no ground for doubting the St. Petersburg accounts of hard fighting in the neighbourhood of Sinminting, for there seems to be considerable unrest alike in Manchuria and Chihli. The Allies do not contemplate the immediate evacuation of Chihli, and Russia cannot be expected to fix a date for her retirement from Manchuria. What is wanted, and what may reasonably be asked of Russia, is that some understanding should be arrived at in the matter. The alleged contention of the St. Petersburg authorities that Russia's arrangements with China are not the concern of any other nation is one which cannot be granted. Had Japan, for instance, put forward such a plea at the conclusion of the China-Japan War, the European Powers would have scouted the idea. The principle of compensation to other Powers for special privileges

granted to one is a long established principle in China, and by its observance alone have many serious international complications been averted. Owing to the peculiar position of China with regard to the rest of the world such a principle is inevitable for the maintenance of peace. Had her officials in the past been all men of even moderate integrity and patriotism, China's dealings with the foreign nations need not have been watched with such jealous eyes. But when her statesmen have on several occasions notoriously shown themselves willing to sell their country's interests to the highest bidder or the most threatening aggressor, it is clear that all the Powers were obliged to look with the utmost care after their own rights. It is by neglecting to do so that British prestige in China has decreased to such a remarkable extent. At the present time it almost appears that the home Government has awakened to the gravity of the situation, and that we may hope for an abandonment of the policy, which had reached its climax under Lord SALISBURY's administration, of amiable concession to the aggressions of other nations, ousting as far as they could British traders from the Far East. This hope is encouraged by the interpretation recently put on the Anglo-German Agreement by the British Government. Whoever it is that is primarily responsible for China's rejection of the Manchurian Convention, the result attained is favourable to British interests, provided that some definite understanding be now arrived at as to the future of Manchuria. The question of the evacuation of China should be treated as a whole, Russia's interest in the Manchurian Railway will be in no wise affected thereby; but the general affairs of this important province cannot be dealt with as a purely Russo-Chinese question. An important point has been gained by the abandonment of the Manchurian Convention. If, however, it is only to be followed by an indefinite occupation of Manchuria, the immediate gain will ultimately be converted into a loss. The Allies are preparing to contemplate the removal of troops from Chihli, although brigandage is still rife—our *Tientsin* correspondent's letter bears witness to this—and in the same way to the departure of the Russian troops from Manchuria must be faced. The right of guarding the railway line with a sufficient force there is no necessity to disturb. Otherwise there is no reason for separating the Manchurian question from that of North China. If British and other diplomatists have intended anything by their protests to China about the Convention, they are bound in common sense to go on and to secure a clear understanding on the subject of Manchuria.

According to the *Siu Wan Pao*, several well known places, such as the palace of Prince Su, the Hanlin Yuen and the Mongol Market are all now included in the new Legation quarter at Peking. There is one little place called simply "The Hall," which the Court will be relieved to hear is likely to be excluded. There the remote ancestors of the reigning family are worshipped by the Emperor together with the princes of his family. They are wont to come in State procession to this Temple when the Emperor, as high-priest of the family, performs the highest religious ceremony before his deified ancestors, viz. three kneelings and nine knockings. After he has completed his devotions, the attendant grandees perform the same ceremonies. It is naturally therefore one of the most sacred places of the "Great Pure" dynasty, and unlike certain other places in Peking which the Emperor nominally visits but never does, he must come here once a year.

INDEMNITY AND COMMERCIAL CONCESSIONS.

(Daily Press, 12th April.)

The indemnity which the Powers will demand from China on account of the outrages against the lives and property of foreigners last year has been fixed, as will be seen from our correspondent's statement of Mr. ROCKHILL's report to Washington, at the sum of five hundred million dollars—a claim which certainly does not err on the side of undue moderation. From the previous attitude of the United States in the matter of the indemnity, no surprise will be felt that their representative has been instructed to offer strenuous opposition to the demands of certain Powers, or that Mr. HAY has suggested a reduction of the claim by one half, in return for which additional commercial concessions shall be asked from China. As we do not yet know which are the Powers whose demands Mr. ROCKHILL is instructed to oppose, we cannot judge of what nature are their claims or on what grounds the States disapprove of them. A very large item in the bill of costs must necessarily be the military and naval expenditures of the expeditionary Powers, and this item China can be fairly called upon to meet. Nevertheless, as great advantages are expected to accrue to the foreign nations from the reform of China consequent on the overthrow of the reactionaries by the expedition, these have to be set to the credit side of China. Then there is the question of indemnity for actual loss of life and property, and here it is the Powers chiefly interested in missionary propaganda that have the largest claims, that is, France, Germany, Great Britain, and the United States themselves. The missionary question has been discussed in the China and home Press of late abundantly, perhaps almost *ad nauseam*. Nevertheless the discussion will have been useful if it has contributed to a more sensible manner of looking at the question. Reasonable compensation for destruction of property should meet with no opposition. But all fair-minded men have recognised the justice of the protest against blood-money exacted from the natives in return for the death of a missionary. Germany may have been warranted in asking China for a foothold on the coast of Shantung, but that the murder of a Christian preacher should have been the pretext for the exaction of the privilege was a disgrace. Cases almost as bad, where the martyrdom of a missionary has resulted in a large profit—not to his family, but—to his Society or his country, can be supplied readily from the recent history of the intercourse between Europe and China. No more vicious principle has ever been upheld by Western arms in China than this, that the life of a foreign preacher can and must be paid for in money or land for his country's benefit. It is this principle which we hope to see abandoned now, and it is a hopeful sign that the United States and a portion at least of Great Britain have seen the error of the old way. Possibly the position of missionaries in China may remain unaltered at the conclusion of the new Treaty. Sir ERNEST SATOW and Mr. CONGER stated recently that they did not think it advisable to discuss with the Chinese authorities regulations for controlling missionaries. But at least it is to be trusted that we shall hear no more of the system which made the murder of a missionary valuable to his country. Mr. HAY's suggestion that the Powers should reduce their claim fifty per cent., in return for additional commercial concessions, is an eminently reasonable one, which we shall hope to see adopted. It is stated

in the home papers which have just reached us that it was to be suggested to the British Government by some of the Members of Parliament who are specially interested in China that a portion of the indemnity should be waived on condition that the Viceroys who have assisted in maintaining order shall be continued in office, and allowed to carry out the reforms desired by the Powers in their respective provinces. This stipulation, however, should surely be made without any reference to the indemnity question; it is essential to the carrying out of the peace conditions. But Mr. HAY's proposal is far more to the point. What the Western Powers have been striving for in China so long, and comparatively with so little success, is the opening up of the country to commerce. The rulers of China in the past have willingly parted with their subjects' money rather than yield any real commercial concessions, and what they have been compelled to grant have been largely nullified by the action of the local officials. It is far better at the present moment, when we have the power, to secure the possibility of fair commercial intercourse with China than to exact enormous sums of money. In the long run the policy will be far more lucrative both to the Powers and to China, and as the former claim to be animated now by no vindictive feelings this should commend it to them. There can be no doubt that Mr. HAY's proposal should secure the support of all foreign residents in China, and they have a very strong claim to be heard in the matter.

A DECADE OF FOREIGN TRADE IN CHINA.

(Daily Press, 11th April.)

In the Imperial Maritime Customs report on the Trade of China in 1900 Mr. F. E. TAYLOR gives some interesting figures of the entries at the Treaty ports, with tonnage, of vessels under the various flags engaged in foreign and coastwise trade in China, in the years 1890 and 1900 respectively. Owing to the disturbed condition of North China last year it cannot be said that the figures enable us to see at a glance the progress made by each nation during the decade, but nevertheless some indication is given of the changes which have occurred in the period. Making due allowance for the upset of trade in the North and the want of confidence engendered in the Yangtze region and South China, we can still form some idea of the comparative advance of various nationalities. We therefore give the figures below for what they are worth.

Great Britain, which in 1890 claimed 1,836 entries for vessels engaged in Foreign Trade in China, in 1900 could show 3,335 entries. The tonnage increase was from 2,031,608 tons to 3,239,924 tons, a little over 60 per cent. increase. Germany, which stood second in 1890 with 393 entries only increased this figure to 433 in 1900, but the tonnage increased from 262,480 tons to 637,653 tons. Japan, third among the foreign nations in 1890 with 267 entries, increased her entries in 1900 to 751, while her tonnage increased from 219,263 to 774,481 tons, thus easily taking second place. France, who in 1890 showed 63 entries and 114,479 tons, in 1900 showed 376 entries and 280,539 tons. Danish entries in 1890 stood at 101, with tonnage at 39,235; in 1900 the figures had dropped to 2 entries, with a tonnage of 4,140. Russia in 1890 claimed 21 entries and 30,182 tons; in 1900, 57 entries and 68,974 tons. America, in 1890, 20 entries and 21,749 tons; in 1900, 69 entries and 130,546 tons. Sweden and Norway, in 1890, 12 entries and 6,384 tons;

in 1900, 93 entries and 102,997 tons. Portugal did not figure in 1890, but in 1900 claimed 306 entries and 23,994 tons. These were the chief figures of foreign nations. Chinese entries in 1890 were 382, with 205,667 tonnage; in 1900 entries were 1,485, with 223,255 tonnage.

Turning now to the Coastwise Trade, we find that entries under the British flag increased during the decade from 6,632 to 8,080, while tonnage increased from 6,025,347 to 8,303,336. German entries increased from 677 to 1,334, and tonnage from 410,940 to 1,381,467; American entries from 58 to 584 and tonnage from 19,063 to 103,340; Japanese entries from 46 to 1,712, and tonnage from 33,225 to 1,165,879; French entries from 24 to 115, and tonnage from 4,560 to 50,923; Swedish and Norwegian entries from 12 to 69, and tonnage from 5,696 to 61,331. Danish entries declined from 45 to 22, but tonnage increased from 19,362 to 20,005. Chinese entries mounted from 4,689 to 15,331, and tonnage from 2,944,033 to 3,674,917.

If we add now the increases of both entries and tonnage under the two headings together, we get the following figures for the principal nations, which may conveniently be put in tabular form:—

	Increase in Entries.	In Tonnage.
Great Britain ...	3,947	3,486,305
Japan ...	2,150	1,687,872
Germany ...	697	1,345,700
United States ...	575	193,074
France ...	404	212,423
Russia ...	195	101,860
China ...	12,848	698,472

These figures, even if we must not build upon them too much, at least bear out the contention that our commercial rivals are exerting themselves to the utmost to reduce our long lead, and if the increases be compared with the total bulk of the trades of each nation, it will be seen that their efforts are telling very strongly.

THE RUSSO-AMERICAN TARIFF WAR.

(Daily Press, 8th April.)

That Englishmen should feel any sympathy in the "Tariff War," as it is described, being carried on between the United States and Russia, is of course quite out of the question. But Russia and the United States are, according to the English tradition, the two greatest offenders against economic laws, and it is therefore interesting to note the steps in the present controversy. The United States have made no secret of their intention in their present Tariff—that under it the world was to be forced to go to America for all its manufacturing needs, while on the other hand America was to permit no article manufactured abroad to enter her ports. The States, in fact, deliberately placed themselves in a position of hostility towards the rest of the world. That under the circumstances the other nations should complain was but natural, and doubtless the fact would have led to serious friction before this, but that the continental Powers felt that they in turn were not blameless, as they had themselves been engaged in the same game of "beggar my neighbour"; and to openly object was only to expose themselves to recriminations which could not be glossed over nor denied. Like HUDIBRAS, however, the States are not indisposed to

Compound for sins they are inclined to. By damning those they have no mind to, and so export bounties come in as the special sin needing above all others righteous abnegation on their part. Now it so hap-

pens that the continental states of Europe, not content to purchase sugar in the cheapest market, have been trying to make beet-root a substitute for the more cheaply grown sugar-cane, and, more extraordinary still, have been paying out of the income of the various countries large sums of money in the way of export bounties on this article, to the benefit apparently of the sugar-refiners of England, though to the serious damage of our West Indian colonies, whose market for sugar was destroyed by these bounties. This particular crime, not having any immediate attraction for the States, has been by them "damned" by the imposition of "countervailing" duties against sugars imported from those countries where bounties on exported sugars existed. Now amongst the states where the artificial culture of sugar has been most encouraged is Russia, and although the method does not assume the form of direct payments on exports, still practically the end is the same; and taking advantage of the facilities offered by the Russian Government, sugar is laid down in the States at a cent a pound below its proper rate. In their righteous zeal against the economic sins of others which themselves "have no mind to," the United States Treasury officials have discovered that they must punish Russia for her backslidings and have announced that they will for the future tax all Russian sugars to the calculated amount of the benefit. Russia, apparently aware that logically she has a weak case, does not descend to argument, but simply announces her intention of raising her import dues on iron and steel manufactures from the States by fifty per cent.—a rate practically prohibitive. That Russia is in this acting strictly within her rights, and indeed only following the bad lead given her by the United States themselves, is plain to any unprejudiced observer; and the only wonder is that the States do not recognise that the dispute is only the natural outgrowth of the system that they have themselves inaugurated. The most curious portion of the controversy is yet to come. The plea for the additional taxation of Russian sugar is that by her complicated system of finance Russia practically offers a bounty on the export of sugar. An American paper thus lays down the case as seen from an American point of view:

"The operation of an export bounty is to cause part of the cost of production of the exported article to be paid by general taxation. This is considered by producers not so favoured to be unfair competition. Our Government has adopted this view, and our revenue laws provide that all dutiable articles from countries which pay export bounties shall pay upon entering the United States, in addition to the regular tariff, a countervailing duty equal to the bounty which such articles have received."

Now, though Russia does not in so many words pay export bounties, she yet in her regulations practically places sugar in the position of being capable of export at a rate below what it could under natural conditions be profitably produced at, and the difference is made up by general taxation. Therefore, urge the Treasury officials, sugar should pay countervailing duties. We are not going to contravene the argument, but to point out that its logical application would prove intensely embarrassing to the States themselves. If the United States Government plead that it is without sin in this matter, as it does not offer any direct bounty on export, it is equally clear that on similar grounds the Russian Government can plead its innocence of any offence. If the United

States plead "you do by indirect measures what you do not wish to own you do directly," where is the difference? One of the objects of the present tariff of the States is to stimulate exports, by so surrounding home manufactures with protective regulations, that of their superabundance the manufactures shall be able to capture the foreign markets. It is not easy for any logical mind to recognise the difference. More especially is this the case with regard to iron and steel manufactures. It is a fact, boasted of rather than denied, that United States manufacturers of wrought steel and machinery do regularly export their goods at rates far below the cost of production; and that they are enabled to do so by the higher prices the people of the States have to pay owing to the tariff shutting out all competition. In what respect does this differ from the action of Russia with regard to its sugar? The Russian peasant has to pay a price out of all proportion to the cost of his sugar, in order that certain manufacturers may be able to export it cheaply to the United States; and on the other side of the Atlantic Ocean the American farmer has to pay equally disproportionate prices for his plough and his reaper, in order that certain syndicates may advantageously get rid of their superfluous goods. This is a war which is, indeed, beneficial to a few individuals, or a few syndicates, but it is difficult to see how in the long run the result to both nations can be other than disastrous.

A VICTORIA MEMORIAL IN HONGKONG.

(Daily Press, 9th April.)

Mr. R. K. LEIGH's suggestion, which appears in a letter in another column, is one which will commend itself to all British subjects in Hongkong. Of all British possessions the Colony of Hongkong, whose history in the nineteenth century is practically coextensive with the reign of Queen Victoria, has through this the strongest cause for the perpetual remembrance of our late sovereign. It is only fitting therefore that there should be some outward sign of the feelings which we must entertain for her. This principle will be readily granted; we feel sure, by all sections of the community. But as to the form which the memorial should take there is likely to be considerable diversity of opinion. In the first place, there is the discouraging example of our previous Victoria memorial, that in honour of the Diamond Jubilee year. It is true that the construction of the proposed road is now beginning and that the scheme has left the province of ideas for that of facts, but it is with little pride that we can look back on the tedious delays and obstructions which so long deferred the commencement of the work. The part of the plan which referred to the Victoria Hospital and Nursing Institute has similarly been a long disappointment to those who in 1897 eagerly took the opportunity of showing their loyalty to their ruler in practical form. But such delays and discouragements are inseparable concomitants of Crown Colony government, to which we have ample opportunities of growing accustomed. The difficulty in such cases as the present to hit upon a scheme to which the Colonial Office can offer little objection. The most obvious method of commemorating the dead is by the erection of a statue, a method which is being adopted at the present time in many parts of the British Empire. In Hongkong, however, we have already a statue of Her late Majesty, and there seems to be little point in erecting another,

even though it should be a more striking monument than that now in Chater Road. As an alternative, there is some form of great public improvement, to which all residents might be glad to contribute, and which might render the appearance of the Colony more worthy of its important position in the Empire. Here we are met by an embarrassment of riches. There are so many deficiencies which might well be supplied, so many benefits to the inhabitants of the Colony which might be suggested. Mr. LEIGH proposes that a public meeting should be held to elect a committee to invite suggestions, preparatory to a second meeting at which the matter could be discussed and some proposal formulated. We can see no more practical way of arriving at a satisfactory conclusion than that suggested by our correspondent, and we have no doubt that his letter will meet with the ready response which it deserves. But, in view of the rate at which schemes progress here after they have been shaped, it would be well to lose no time in making a start.

THE WATER AUTHORITY AND THE RAIN.

(Daily Press, 10th April.)

In the midst of the heavy downpour of rain with which the Colony has been favoured during the past three days the Water Authority appears to have been struck with the idea of playing a practical joke on the residents. In Saturday's *Gazette* there appeared, over Mr. CHATHAM's signature, a notice to the effect that, in the absence of further rainfall, on and after Monday, the 8th instant, the supply of water would be turned on in the public mains only during certain hours in various districts. The threatened householders saw with relief a most abundant fall of rain on Sunday, and Bank Holiday brought a repetition of the same weather. On the latter day, to the consternation of those who were consoling themselves for enforced confinement at home with the idea that at least the water-supply had been replenished, the water was cut off at the public mains in various districts, starting, we believe, at the Peak. Apparently therefore our Water Authority is not satisfied with the rain which has fallen in the last three days. In that case it must be said that his notice in the *Gazette* was misleading. There certainly has not been any "absence of further rainfall." The exact statistics of the fall are not yet made out, but the heaviness of some of the showers and the long continuance of the less violent rain preclude the idea of its having been small; moreover, an inspection of the reservoir shows this not to be so. The explanation of the Water Authority's action is difficult to imagine, unless he is laying up a stock of water for a coming dry day.

A correspondent to the *Malay Mail* gives some particulars of the panic which has seized the Chinese community in Selangor, owing to the recent deportation of Chinese from the state and the continual arrests of suspects. A gloom has spread over the whole city of Kuala Lumpur, he writes; the gambling dens are deserted, the Chinese theatre plays to empty houses, and people are afraid to be seen in public at night. Trade is dislocated, men are withdrawing their money from mines, hundreds are leaving the state, and the chetties have refused to lend money until the trouble blows over. The *Malay Mail* says, however, that Mr. Hare, the Protector of Chinese, has issued notices in Chinese pointing out that only bad characters have any cause for alarm, and that respectable people have nothing to fear.

THE CRISIS: TELEGRAMS.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENTS.]

SHANGHAI, 4th April, 7 39 p.m.

The Ministers entirely distrust Li Hung-chang, who is gradually dying. His brain is, however, clear, and he retains all his mental faculties.

The principal provincial authorities of China are mutually consulting together as to what proposed reforms should be recommended to the Throne. It is thought by ninety-eight officials that such reforms should be immediately adopted.

It is now proposed to devote the salt taxes, the transport rice tribute, and the *lekin* in payment of the indemnities.

SHANGHAI, 7th April, 8.5 p.m.

The Empress Dowager and Lu Chuan-lin are asking the Yangtze Viceroy what course they now recommend if Russia retains Manchuria.

The Manchu reformers are arranging protests, disliking being outdone by Chinese patriotism.

SHANGHAI, 8th April, 7.22 p.m.

Honan despatches report that large barges are being built for the transport of the Court across the Hoang Ho, on their journey to Peking.

Yu Yen-lin has been appointed Governor of Kwangsi and Hsi Liang Governor of Hupeh, both of them being violent reactionaries.

SHANGHAI, 9th April, 7.5 p.m.

The Viceroy and Governors have jointly agreed that the following reforms are necessary for immediate adoption:—

- (1) Princes and nobles shall go abroad for study;
- (2) Graduates shall study abroad before becoming officials;
- (3) All examinations require thorough and reasonable revision;
- (4) More schools and colleges are required;
- (5) The Army must adopt foreign drill;
- (6) The three years' limit of office must be abolished in the case of deserving officials;
- (7) The model recommended for the police is the police force at Shanghai;
- (8) The Imperial Post must be extended over the whole Empire.
- (9) The silver dollar shall be the universal legal tender.

SHANGHAI, 11th April, 7.55 p.m.

The Chinese report that the Imperial Court actually proceeds to Peking via Honan on the 7th May.

The following items are from the *Foochow Echo* of the 30th March:—H.M.S. *Britomart* left on Wednesday for Weihaiwei. Before her departure Captain Walter, who goes home on leave, was relieved by Captain Baird.—A fire broke out on Tuesday morning last in the suburbs eastward of the long street and not far from the river. Commencing at 3 o'clock it raged until 8 and consumed some 250 houses. The site of the outbreak was close to that of a conflagration of a few months ago, upon which blocks of newly built houses had just sprung up, and all of these perished in the flames with the rest, bringing disaster upon disaster on the unfortunate owners. One life is reported to have been lost.—The local hockey season has closed.

HONGKONG SANITARY BOARD.

A meeting of the Sanitary Board was held at the Board Room on Thursday afternoon, 4th inst. The Acting President (Hon. W. Chatham) occupied the chair, and there were also present:—Hon. F. H. May, C.M.G., Lieut.-Col. Hughes, R.A.M.C., Dr. F. Clark (Medical Officer of Health), Mr. A. W. Brewin, Mr. E. Osborne and Mr. G. A. Woodcock (Secretary).

THE RESIGNATION OF DR. H. HARTIGAN.

The SECRETARY read a letter from the Government informing the Board that Dr. Hartigan had resigned his seat, and enclosing copy of the correspondence which had taken place on the subject. The enclosure embodied Dr. Hartigan's letter of resignation; a copy of his address to the ratepayers on the subject, and copy of a letter from the Colonial Secretary to that gentleman, which ran as follows:—

"I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 18th instant resigning your position on the Sanitary Board, and enclosing copy of the letter in which you have informed the ratepayers of the reasons which have impelled you to take that course.

"His Excellency the Governor regrets that you have withdrawn your valuable assistance from the Sanitary Board, and would point out that you underestimate the service which you have rendered to the community as a member of that Board, which is not even trammelled by the responsibility advocated by you in the concluding paragraph of your published letter, and the recommendations of which have been freely adopted by the Government both as to the personnel of the Department, the adoption of sanitary legislation, and the execution of public works recommended.

"The cost of the sanitary staff in 1898 was \$105,018. The estimated cost for 1901 is \$152,903, while within that time which corresponds with the period during which Sir Henry Blake has administered the Government of this colony, a sum of \$1,148,811 has been expended in carrying out sanitary work recommended by the Board, and a further sum of \$302,450 is included in the estimates for the current year.

"Legislation of a far reaching nature has also been adopted at the suggestion of the Board, whose services to the colony His Excellency appreciates very highly, and whose independence of action is emphasised by the fact that during the past year, when many important resolutions were debated, there was not a single instance in which all the official members voted on one side, and all the unofficial members on the other side."

The Vice-President:—The answer should be published.

The CHAIRMAN—I think you have all seen these papers. The Colonial Secretary has written a reply accepting the resignation of Dr. Hartigan and giving some particulars in explanation of the expenditure that has been incurred on sanitary works during past years. It is pointed out in the letter that the cost of the sanitary staff in 1901 was over \$152,000, and the expenditure during Sir Henry Blake's administration amounts to \$1,148,811 on sanitary works, and a further sum of \$302,450 is included in the estimate for this year. I think these are facts that show substantial progress has been made.

Mr. OSBORNE—What does this one million odd roughly consist of, Sir?

The CHAIRMAN—I presume it embraces the water works, markets, drainage, and all like matters.

Mr. OSBORNE—It would be more satisfactory if some details of that expenditure would be given. Certainly, with respect to the markets and water supply, as far as sanitary matters are concerned, it looks a pretty big sum. I must say I was astonished. I thought there must be an additional figure added on by mistake.

The CHAIRMAN—Do you make any motion asking for details?

Mr. OSBORNE—No. I don't make any motion on the subject.

The CHAIRMAN—Then the documents will be laid on the table.

THE QUARTERLY INSPECTION COMMITTEE.

The report of the Quarterly Inspection Committee for the first quarter of 1901 was laid on the

table. It was signed by the Hon. F. H. May and Mr. Osborne, and was as follows:—

"On the 15th instant we made our quarterly inspection, and visited districts Nos. 4 and 5. We have to submit the following remarks for the information of the Board.

"(1) No. 5, Wai Tak Lane, 1st Floor. The structure in this room (in which no cubicle can legally be erected, has sides of a cloth material permanently fixed. We noticed some others of a somewhat similar nature. In one instance the sides were composed of the folds of a screen made of lath and paper permanently fixed. Such structures are, in our opinion, illegal, and should be removed.

"(2) Tai Wo Lane, Nos. 1, 2 and 3, Ground Floors. We found these floors inhabited, although the inspector who has only just taken over this particular district informed us that they had been declared unfit for human habitation. If they have not been so declared they ought to be.

"(3) Wo On Lane, No. 5, 1st Floor. The middle one of three cubicles on this floor would appear to be an illegal structure.

"(4) Hing Lung Street. A great improvement has been effected by cementing the surface of this street.

"(5) Wing On Street. The same remark applies. Under the archway at the north end of this street cooking operations are carried on which do not improve the sanitary condition of the street.

"The streets and houses we visited were on the whole creditably clean."

The Registrar General minuted:—"These reports should go to the Medical Officer of Health for his remarks before being circulated."

The Acting President minuted:—"I agree with the ideas.

Dr. CLARK—There are one or two small matters which I have been attending to mentioned in the report. One is that of the formation of cubicles by means of curtains. Whenever they have been made fixtures, the occupants have been told to take them down. If they have not done so prosecutions have been instituted.

Hon. F. H. MAY—Where do you draw the line then?

Dr. CLARK—As to mosquito curtains where they are fixed.

Hon. F. H. MAY—Then you say the line is drawn at a fixture.

Dr. CLARK—Yes, at practically nothing else.

THE COLONIAL VETERINARY SURGEON'S REPORT.

The SECRETARY submitted the report of the Committee on the Colonial Veterinary Surgeon's Report for 1900.

The Committee, consisting of Hon. F. H. May and Mr. Osborne, made the following remarks on slaughter houses:—"We understand that the Colonial Veterinary Surgeon and the Vice-president are reporting to Government on the question of handing over to the Board the management of the slaughter house at Kennedytown. If the slaughter house is so handed over, an additional inspector will be included in the staff for it. In these circumstances we are of opinion that the report of the officers mentioned should be awaited.

"We are of opinion that a small slaughter house might with advantage be built at Shau-kiwan. There is not at present so great a need at Aberdeen."

On the subject of Markets, the Committee said:—"We are of opinion that more room is required for the killing and plucking of fowls in the Central Market. We have reason to believe that the commission appointed some time ago to enquire into the causes of the high price of food, will make a recommendation for utilising to better advantage the accommodation in the Central Market. If such recommendation is made and approved more room might be found for the business of the poultry dealers in the market.

"We inspected the Central Market between 6 and 7 p.m. on the 15th instant, and found that in nearly every stall on the upper floor the electric light provided in the market was supplemented by one or more oil lamps, that on the ground floor in all the fish stalls naked oil lamps were in use while many lamps were in use in the other stalls. These facts prove that Mr. Ladd's contention that the market is insufficiently lighted is correct. Many of these oil

lamps were dirty and ill-trimmed and emitted a black smoke which is very objectionable in a market. We regard them also as a source of danger. One of them might easily cause a fire that might destroy the whole building. We therefore recommend that each stall in the market be provided with one hanging electric lamp at the public cost, and that as many more as a stallholder wants be provided, the light consumed by them being charged for monthly. The large revenue derived from the markets seems to justify the additional expenditure involved.

"We are of opinion that the systematic and thorough inspection of markets needs the services of two European officers. If such inspection forms part of the duties of the Colonial Veterinary Surgeon then the existing staff should be sufficient for the present, but if it does not another inspector should be provided.

"We think that the pay of the senior inspector should be not less than that of a first class sanitary inspector provided he acquires a knowledge of Chinese."

Dr. Clark minuted:—The previous instructions of the Board re the smoky oil lamps do not appear to have been complied with.

Mr. A. W. Brewin minuted:—I believe the fish stallholders in the Central Market find it necessary to light their oil lamps in the daytime. The C.V.S. is inspector of markets. Is there not some record of his duties?

Mr. Chatham minuted:—The recommendation is to provide one lamp to each stall. I presume "shop" is meant not "stall," which is somewhat extravagant. Two rows of lamps in place of the single row at present provided in each section ought to be sufficient. How much does the lighting of the Market cost at present?

Mr. BREWIN—At the fish market the lamps were lit at a quarter past four yesterday.

The CHAIRMAN—Yes! the lighting is rather insufficiently done there. The cost of lighting the market at present is rather a large item. In October it was \$561, November \$625, December \$637, January \$860, February \$709 and March \$707, so that it will be seen that the cost of lighting the market is very considerable, and to provide a lamp in each shop would largely increase that cost.

Hon. F. H. MAY—Well! the people have not got enough light.

Dr. CLARK said that if they were going to provide a 16 candle power lamp to each stall they would double the cost of the present lighting. At present they had to pay about \$7,000 a year and if they did what was proposed they would have to pay \$13,000 or \$14,000 a year. Possibly if they provided a lamp for each shop they could do without the light in the passages. That however would only be an experiment.

Mr. OSBORNE—Why can't you make the stall-holders pay for it? They are using paraffin lamps at present, and it will be better for them if you substitute electric lamps.

Dr. CLARK—I think the Board, or the President, should consider the question of lighting the markets, and to insist upon having electric lamps in place of the paraffin ones.

The CHAIRMAN—If you make such a rule you must have a meter.

Hon. F. H. MAY—It struck us that the light was wasted. It was so high up.

Dr. CLARK—Well, it was made to include the shop and side streets. I think it would be better to have small lamps for the shops.

Mr. OSBORNE asked what the Electric Company would light up the market for.

Dr. CLARK—I pay \$2 a month for a 16 candle power lamp in the house. That is for the current, but does not include the rent.

Dr. CLARK—I think we might refer this matter to the Director of Public Works for further information.

Hon. F. H. MAY—I would like to say that if we had a lamp over each shop and turned the others out, I believe myself there would be quite enough light.

Mr. OSBORNE—You don't want the light outside; you want it in the shop.

Hon. F. H. MAY—It's a waste there.

Mr. OSBORNE—That's lighting the road.

Mr. BREWIN—It's the fish market that wants lighting badly.

Hon. F. H. MAY—Yes! they want a lot of light in dealing with fish.

It was eventually resolved to refer the question to the Director of Public Works for further information and report.

The CHAIRMAN said in reply to Mr. Brewin's minute that it was part of Mr. Ladd's duties to see to the inspection of the markets.

A NEW SLAUGHTER-HOUSE.

Dr. CLARK—I think we should provide a small Slaughter House at Shaukiwan. It has been wanted for some years past. I move that the Government be asked to build one.

Mr. OSBORNE seconded.

Carried.

MALARIA RESEARCH.

The reports of the Royal Society to the Malarial Committee were laid upon the table.

PLAGUE AT MANILA.

On the motion of Dr. CLARK, seconded by Mr. OSBORNE, the Board declared the port of Manila infected with plague.

MORTALITY STATISTICS.

The mortality statistics for the week ended 16th March gave the death rate for the whole colony as 14.9 against 23.0 in the corresponding week of last year.

HEALTH OF MACAO.

The mortality return from Macao for the week ended 24th March last showed 24 deaths.

RINDERPEST AT NAGASAKI.

The SECRETARY read a letter from the British Consulate at Nagasaki stating the outbreak of rinderpest at that port was at an end.

PLAGUE AT SINGAPORE.

The SECRETARY read a letter from the Government at Singapore to the effect that from 1st January to 13th March there had been 9 cases of plague and 9 deaths. The last case reported was on 7th March. Singapore was therefore declared free from plague.

PLAGUE AT BOMBAY.

The CHAIRMAN, in submitting the report of the authorities of Bombay on the plague, observed that they appeared to have had a bad time in the Western Indian port, 203 deaths having occurred in March last.

THE RINDERPEST AT POKFULAM.

Dr. CLARK stated that with regard to the rinderpest at Pokfulam since the last meeting 15 of the cattle had died, and 16 had recovered, two of them not having contracted the disease at all. The last case which occurred was on 21st March, and the last death was on 25th March. 14 young animals had been put in with a view to lymph, and the last of them was put in the sheds on 21st March, but none of them had been affected. It was necessary to continue the employment of the watchmen.

That was all the business.

RETURN OF THE AUSTRALIAN NAVAL CONTINGENT.

The steamer *Chingtu* (British transport 106), having on board the officers and men of the Australian Naval Contingent, arrived in the harbour at ten a.m. on the 4th inst., from Taku, which port she left on the 29th ult. Hazy weather and light, variable winds, with a smooth sea, were experienced during the passage.

The Naval Brigade, which is composed of volunteers from New South Wales and Victoria, consists of about 420 officers and men, and is under the command of Captain Gillespie, R.N. Captain Connor, New South Wales, and Captain Tickell, Victoria, are the officers in charge of the two detachments, which include about fifty marines from New South Wales. These had previously volunteered to go to South Africa, but were left behind, and being under canvas when the Naval Brigade was mobilised, offered their services and were accepted as a composite part of the contingent. The Brigade, which left Sydney on 18th August, arrived at the seat of war in October, too late to take part in active fighting. They participated in the march to Paoingfu, when the Boxers retreated without offering any resistance. The Victorians were selected for police duty in Tientsin, whilst the volunteers from New South Wales were stationed at Peking in three different detachments—one at Chang Wang Fu, another at the Legations, and a third at

Lama Temple. Their duties consisted principally of police patrolling and guarding the railway between Peking and Tientsin. The New South Wales contingent remained at Peking from October till the end of last month, when, with the Victorian detachment, they were relieved by the draft of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers which left here about the middle of March. Seventeen men of the New South Wales detachment were left behind, they having on the 25th ult. volunteered for railway duty between Peking and Tientsin. On assuming this duty they were discharged from the contingent. The men are in splendid health and spirits, and have but one regret—that they were not privileged to take an active part in the quelling of the Boxers.

On Friday, the 5th inst., H.E. Sir Henry A. Blake paid a visit to the *Chingtu*, and after a little conversation with Captain Gillespie was conducted over the vessel. His Excellency then addressed the officials and men of the Australian Naval Brigade. He said he was determined that they should not go through the harbour without his giving himself the pleasure of welcoming them back to British waters after their service in the North, and assuring them of the appreciation of their admirable conduct while performing important duties in Peking and Tientsin. During all that time they had shown themselves worthy sons of the Empire. Since they had left their homes at the call of duty great and momentous changes had taken place. They left Australia a collection of disconnected Colonies. They return to a great Federated Commonwealth. They left Australia when we were all living under the glorious reign of the greatest and grandest Queen that ever lived. They were returning to take part in welcoming the sailor son of our present Sovereign King Edward the Seventh who would prove a worthy successor to his revered mother. And their presence side by side with their brothers who had fought so well in South Africa would show the world that the British Empire had sons in the North, sons in the South, sons in the East and sons in the West who were ready to fall in together under the grand old Union Jack that would henceforth for them be adorned with the six stars of Australia. With the object lesson that has been shown during the past year of the readiness of all our colonies to play a man's part in the defence of the Empire we might well quote Shakespeare and say "Come the three corners of the world in arms and we will shock them." He welcomed them back from their duty in North China and wished them to remember that in all probability the distant future of the far East would be in the hands of Australia, and when that day came he had no doubt that the men of the Commonwealth would prove themselves worthy sons of worthy fathers. As the representative of their King in Hongkong he thanked them in the name of the great Empire to which they all belonged for the readiness with which they had volunteered for active service under the old flag. (Cheers).

At the conclusion of the speech, three cheers for the Governor of Hongkong were called for and most heartily given.

On the 5th inst. the *Chingtu* left the Harbour for Australia, taking with her the Naval Brigade. It is hoped that Sydney will be reached in time to enable the Brigade to take part in the Commonwealth celebrations following on the arrival of the Duke and Duchess of York.

In consequence of a number of foreigners having of late been travelling about the Liang Kiang provinces at random, rendering it very hard for the local authorities to be prepared to give the protection and care necessary in these unsettled times, Viceroy Liu Kung-yi, of Nanking, has made it known to the various Consuls there that foreigners desirous of travelling in the province of Kiangsu will in future be required to have their passports first visé at the Bureau of Foreign Affairs and to notify where they intend to go, so that the authorities of these places may have time to prepare the necessary steps for their special protection. Failing this procedure, the Viceroy declines to accept any responsibility for the safety of such foreign travellers.

THE SIEGE TRAIN INSPECTION.

Brigadier-General Pipon, Commanding R.A., of the Field Force, who came down from North China a few days ago, accompanied by Brigade Major Capt. Coxhead, D.S.O., partly inspected the Siege Train at Kowloon on the 10th inst., in the square opposite the camp, applicable for the loan of which has been made to proper quarters. The heavy downpour rain of the last day or so had made the ground very sloppy, so that the work of manning the big guns was made much more tedious. Some very excellent evolutions were, however, gone through. The officer in charge of the Siege Train was Col. Perrett, and Adjutant Capt. Tancred was also present. The officer commanding the 15th Southern Division, R.A., was Lt. Tyack, and Capt. Galbraith commanded the 15th Western. During the morning the 15th Southern, with 9.45 Howitzers, were inspected. They were afterwards brought to firing position and then the teams were tested at driving drill. It was very heavy work, and on several occasions the teams became imbedded in the deep muddy ruts, so they were dragged over the courses set for them. The men, however, proved themselves capable to the position, and triumphantly placed their howitzers to the spots where they were placed in firing position, and at the close of the day they were in their original places in commendable time and manner. During the afternoon the 15th Southern with their 6in. Howitzers were similarly treated, and at the close, we understand, the Inspecting Officer expressed appreciation at the satisfactory gunnery he witnessed.

Brigadier General Pipon concluded his inspection of the Siege Train at Kowloon on Friday. As on the previous day the men turned out early in the morning, and prepared for a field day. The officer in charge of the Siege Train was Col. Perrett, who was accompanied by Capt. Tancred. The officer commanding the 15th Southern Division, R.A., was Capt. Tyack, and Capt. Galbraith commanded the 15th Western. The men and guns were first lined up on the square facing the camp in companies. The 15th Southern were in companies, and the 15th Western in one column, after which the guns were inspected, and the men put through physical evolutions with arms, and subsequently in shirt-sleeves. Evolutions were capably carried out, and at the close General Pipon briefly addressed the troops. He said he was very pleased with all he had seen, more especially at the physical drill, complimented the troops upon the smart soldierly way they had manipulated the guns, notwithstanding the atmospheric disadvantages.

The men comprising the Siege Train, including the 15th Southern, left England on 9th December, 1899, and arrived in South Africa on Boxing Day of that year. They left South Africa at the end of 1900, for China, and they have been stationed at Weihaiwei, as well as Kowloon. The guns they have with them are the 9.45in., the 6in. Howitzers. The former have been in action, but the latter were taken to the bombardment of Cronje's stronghold, and fired nineteen rounds, and Cronje surrendered the next day. Of course, it is not understood that the rounds wholly brought about the surrender, but they did a great deal towards bringing that about.

We learn that it is published in the official gazette that the 15th Southern will be sent to Rorkee, if the circumstances in South Africa warrant such a course, but no definite is known as to the future whereabouts of the 15th Western, R.A. The other companies of the 15th Southern, now at Pretoria, are to remain there for some time to come.

According to the *Universal Gazette*, the Chinese have already consented to hand back to the Board of Revenue, which are within the leased new area for the Legation quarter at Peking. They, however, demand a very large indemnity for the buildings, as they suspect the Board of Revenue still has secret treasures.

THE MISSIONARIES AND THE CHINESE.

We have received for publication the following report from the Committee of the Canton Missionary Conference to that Conference:—

Brethren—Your Committee, appointed to prepare a paper setting forth the views of the Conference on the subjects of "Indemnities," "Missionary Interference," etc., with reference also to certain statements contained in despatches from Acting Viceroy Tak to Consul McWade, has carefully considered the subjects referred to, and now reports as follows:—

1. We accept fully the statement of Acting Viceroy Tak in his despatch, that "The native Christians are Chinese subjects." The missionary constantly impresses upon the converts that uniting with a Church does not make them any the less amenable to the laws of China. What we insist upon is that converts shall be treated as Chinese subjects. The Acting Viceroy may not be aware of the fact that converts are not so treated by the local magistrates. They are frequently referred to in open court as aliens, and as those who have forfeited all right to justice before the laws. In several instances local magistrates have requested converts to take their cases to the consuls as the proper persons to whom their cases should be presented. Again, it not infrequently happens that Christians are compelled to pay exorbitant sums of money before they can get their cases before the magistrates; and after the case is admitted unusual and unnecessary delay occurs in the settlement of cases in which Christians are concerned.

So long as the Christians are not treated as other Chinese subjects, but are subjected to disabilities and are refused the same protection of law which is given other Chinese subjects, the officials cannot complain of missionary interference. In most instances it is only through the missionary that the converts can secure the rights which the treaties grant them. Therefore we do claim that:

2. In accordance with the treaties made by the Chinese Government with other nations, "Those who quietly profess and teach this doctrine (Christian doctrine) shall not be harassed or persecuted on account of their faith." And that "Any person, whether citizen of the United States or other country, or Chinese convert, who according to these tenets peaceably teaches and practices the principles of Christianity, shall in no case be interfered with."

3. We would point out that if it was proper for foreign governments to make the above a part of their treaty with China, it is right and a matter of simple justice to the Chinese, who accepted Christianity while this treaty was in force, to claim that its provisions shall be carried out.

4. Failure to insist upon the observance of this part of the treaty is an encouragement to the Chinese Government to disregard every other obligation of the treaties they have made with foreign governments.

5. The Viceroy's despatches plainly imply that the recent troubles were caused by "children and ruffians," that "lawless people circulating groundless rumours made trouble in all districts by plundering or looting." This is plainly an attempt to shift the responsibility for the trouble from those who were guilty and place it upon irresponsible parties. It is well known that in almost every instance when trouble occurred, one or more wealthy and influential person was the instigator of the trouble and that "children and ruffians" were but acting under the directions of others.

6. The Viceroy's despatch also states that "Hereafter missionary cases will not be arranged according to the mode of the arrangement made in the present year." We wish the Viceroy to understand that we do not seek to establish precedents in the settlement of cases. The treaty still remains in force. The observance of its provisions is all we desire. Yet we maintain that the indemnities paid during the past months were not excessive, but clearly within the provisions of the treaties and the laws of China.

7. In conclusion we wish to state that what the missionary wants is order and not indemnities. The surest way to secure order is to accord to converts the same justice that is ac-

corded to other Chinese subjects. If local magistrates (and gentry) continue to treat Christians with contempt, allow their underlings to oppress them, and cause unnecessary delay in the settlement of disputes, it is hardly possible that "Missionary Interference" will speedily cease. Therefore we desire to point out to the Viceroy that the radical cure for all trouble between Christians and non-Christians is a change of attitude on the part of local officials (and gentry) towards the Christians. Let the local magistrates treat the Christians fairly and justly and much of the trouble of the past will not be repeated.

ANDREW BEATTIE,
Secretary of Committee.

Canton, 27th March, 1901.

THE CAPTURE OF AGUINALDO.

GEN. FUNSTON'S STORY.

Gen. Funston, the capturer of Aguinaldo, gave an account of his feat to the *Manila Times*, from which we take the following:—

Gen. Funston begins by relating how he conceived the idea of getting a number of native troops to pass themselves off as reinforcements expected by Aguinaldo, and obtained consent from headquarters. He continues: "The expedition was made up of four Tagalos who were formerly commissioned officers in Aguinaldo's army, whose names it is not advisable to use on account of their personal safety in Manila. We selected twenty-eight men of the Macabebe scouts, all of whom could talk Tagalo fluently. This was an important detail, as will afterwards appear. Every man was a picked man, and was thoroughly trusted by his officers, and the way in which they carried out the difficult task assigned to them has proved the wisdom of their choice. I also selected Capt. Hazzard and Lieut. Hazzard, who were in command of the Macabebe scouts, my own aide, Lieut. Mitchell, and Capt. Harry N. Newton, of the 34th Infantry, who was chosen on account of his familiarity with the country which would be traversed, he having previously commanded an expedition into that territory. I obtained a number of captured insurgent uniforms, and ten Macabebes were equipped with Remington and Mauser rifles, and the Krag-Jorgensens, which were supposed to have been captured from American troops."

The force steamed round in a gunboat to a short distance above Baler on the east coast of Luzon and landed. The five officers were dressed as private soldiers, and each carried a towel, a tooth-brush, and a half blanket. Twenty of the Macabebe scouts were dressed in insurgent uniforms, the balance being dressed as common *hombres*, so as not to arouse suspicion by a too well equipped and dressed insurgent force. The expedition started on its way by land on the 14th, sending on word ahead that reinforcements for Aguinaldo were on their way to Casiguran. After reaching this town six days' weary march was made to Aguinaldo's camp. Gen. Funston continues: "The distance was ninety miles. Our food supply was entirely exhausted, and my men were so weak and exhausted from the terrible hike and lack of food, that when we reached within eight miles of Aguinaldo's camp, we could go no further. We therefore sent a messenger ahead to Aguinaldo's camp, informing him of our plight, and requesting that he send us food before we could go further. This was on the afternoon of the 22nd. This was supplied us, and the disguise and ruse adopted by us had been complete."

On the 23rd the march was resumed. As the Macabebes approached the town, the troops of Aguinaldo's body-guard, consisting of fifty men, armed with rifles, were drawn up in parade, to receive the supposed reinforcements. The men who were posing as officers of the expedition proudly marched into the camp, and paid their respects to Aguinaldo, who received them in a large house built on the bank of the Palanan river, a deep stream running through the town. After the usual military courtesies had been exchanged, during which time the Macabebes outside were using their best endeavors to make use of their knowledge of Tagalo, in relating to the troops stationed in the town the account

of their perilous trip through the mountains, and their adventure en route, the officers, who came with the expedition, excused themselves from Aguinaldo and his staff for a moment, stepped outside, and ordered their Macabebes troops, drawn up into line, to commence firing into Aguinaldo's troops. By this time, the detachment with the five American prisoners had reached the house, and were left outside: they witnessed the effect of the first volley. The rout of the insurgents was indescribable. The Macabebes had been thoroughly instructed as to the part they were to play, and beyond a feverish excitement caused by an itching for the blood of the insurgents, they carried out their orders to the letter. Three volleys were fired into the insurgents, who broke and ran in every direction. Eighteen of them were wounded and two killed. One Macabeba was slightly wounded in the attack. This was the only casualty of the expedition. The insurgent officers, the five American officers, and several Macabebes scouts immediately made a rush for the house which was used as Aguinaldo's headquarters, where he and his staff were assembled; and Aguinaldo, the president; Col. Villa, the chief of staff, and Santiago Barce-lona, the official treasurer of the remnants of the insurgent government, were captured.

Gen. Funston concludes:—"Aguinaldo, when first overpowered and taken prisoner, was furious, and raved and swore at the deception practised upon him, but finally cooled down and has since behaved in a dignified and manly way as becomes one claiming such exalted rank."

A POINT ABOUT THE MANCHURIAN CONVENTION.

A very interesting point about Russia's persistent endeavour to get China to sign the new Manchurian Convention is that it has provoked Russian officials in China to acknowledge the existence of the Cassini Convention, which was for so long both officially and semi-officially denied. "If we do not get this new convention signed," say the Russians, "we lose all we gained by the Cassini Convention of 1896." We were plentifully ridiculed for our credulity when we published the secret treaty between Russia and China in 1896, but Russians themselves now own that we only stated facts, and we may add that the further statement we made five years ago, that that secret treaty was equivalent to a traitorous sale of Manchuria to Russia was absolutely true, and the traitor is still at work trying to persuade the Emperor to put the seal to the bargain by ratifying the new Manchurian Convention. It is satisfactory to know that Li Hung-chang is now almost entirely discredited, the Viceroy at Nanking being preferred to him as the medium for communication with the Emperor, and there is every reason to believe that Li will not much longer have any influence on the politics of China. It was an insult to the Great German Chancellor ever to call Li the Bismarck of China.—*N.-C. Daily News.*

THE FOOCHOW TEA TRADE.

The statistics for the season now closed show the Total Export to be 40,342,288 lbs. against 44,148,650 lbs. in 1899-1900, 38,718,940 lbs. in 1898-99, 35,887,522 lbs. in 1898-99 and 35,887,522 lbs. in 1897-98.

As compared with ten years ago the past season's export shows a falling off of 33 per cent. The following comparative figures are given to show the changes that have taken place in the destination of the shipments:—

	1890-1901.	1890-91.
	lbs.	lbs.
Europe...	11,299,703	25,661,017
Australia and New Zealand...	6,514,722	15,250,738
United States and Canada...	11,855,217	3,404,957
South Africa...	1,378,864	1,543,652
Coast Southward...	4,260,213	4,713,889
Northward...	5,033,569	8,834,486
	40,342,288	59,458,739

The comparative figures of the deliveries of China tea in London and Australia are corre-

pondingly disappointing, notwithstanding that the lowness to which prices have made the tea attractive to buyers if solely on account of its unprecedented cheapness. It has been apparent for some time past that Foochow tea, with insignificant exceptions, is only bought in London to mix with that from Indian and Ceylon, and not then until the importer, tired of holding, parts with it at a price below the cost of production.

Under these circumstances the prospects for the trade are exceedingly gloomy. The Chinese were losers last year and will act with great caution this year. They know, as well as we do, the low scale of prices current in the consuming markets and will run as little risk as possible. Everything points to diminished supplies next season. The money usually advanced about this time of the year is not forthcoming, the native banks giving as a reason for withholding facilities, the unsettled state of affairs in the north. Thus the tea men will have to fall back on their own limited resources which the well-informed say may be taken to mean that a considerable portion of the first crop will not be picked at all: and if present current prices in the consuming markets are to be any guide to the Chinese in their later operations in the season the export figures at this date next year will compare very unfavourably with those just published.—*Foochow Echo.*

THEATRE ROYAL.

DALLAS CO.'S FAREWELL PERFORMANCE.

The Dallas Musical Comedy Company, who have been entering for our amusement for the past month, closed their Hongkong season on Saturday night, the 6th inst., when the charming Chinese opera *San Toy*, in which the company scored such a success a few weeks ago, was again staged. Saturday night's performance to a full house went with the same "go" which characterized the three previous performances of this piece. Mr. Dallas as Li maintained his reputation as a first-class comedian, and his rendering of the popular song "The Chinese Soldier-man" was vociferously encored. Miss de Worms as *San Toy* was very charming and went through her part admirably well, singing in clever style "It's nice to be a boy sometimes." Miss May Norton as Dudley, the maid, and Miss Bertha Hunter as Poppy, although the latter lady had very little to do, very ably sustained Mr. Dallas' efforts. A word of praise must also be given to Mr. Harold Godwin as Yen How for his clever acting and rendering of the song "I mean to introduce them into China." All the principal songs were enthusiastically received, and several encores had to be conceded to a highly pleased audience, who testified their appreciation by a liberal offer of floral tributes. The other members of the Company, although we have not mentioned them individually, loyally supported those who filled the leading parts, and helped to make the performance an excellent one.

At the conclusion Mr. Dallas in a few well chosen words thanked the residents of Hongkong for the kind patronage extended, and cordially shown by them to him, Mrs. Dallas, and the Company, during their stay here, and at the same time presented Mr. Vallance, the musical director, with several souvenirs subscribed for by some of Mr. Vallance's friends. The whole company then joined hands and sang the *Auld Lang Syne*.

The Company left on Monday at noon by the French mail steamer *Ernest Simons* for Singapore, where they will play for a short season, and then proceed to Colombo.

The Nanchang correspondent of the *N.-C. Daily News* says that the new Governor of Kiangsi has taken hold of matters with a stiff hand, if the report of the under officials is any criterion, and is judged to be a vigorous old man. Much difficulty is being experienced in the adjustment of the Roman Catholic claims. The officials say they are willing to pay all just claims, but are unable to meet claims that seem to them after careful investigation to be exorbitant. It is suggested that all claims for indemnity be submitted to a board of arbitration, for the probabilities are that such a board would approve all legitimate claims.

CANTON.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

Canton, 9th Apr.

RICE EXPORT FROM CANTON.

The export of rice from Canton to foreign countries has been prohibited from the time of Chang Chi tung, the former Viceroy of Liang Kwang; but ever since then such prohibition has been either enforced or disregarded according to the bribes paid to the officials. In fact it never can be wholly prohibited instead of letting the whole profit go into pockets of the exporters. The present Viceroy has thought fit to allow a limit of 50,000 piculs to be exported, at one dollar per picul.

PREVENTING A TRIAD RISING.

About a month or so ago there was a rumour in Canton that the Triads at Waichow were worshipping before their banners in preparation for another rebellion. Upon learning this, H.E. Tao Mu despatched the Black Flag General Lin Yungfu and his troops to Waichow to suppress any rebellion that may arise. Upon the arrival of Lin and his troops he ordered men and women, old and young, against whom there was the slightest suspicion to be shot and their houses destroyed. I believe this is going on still in the same way.

REMARKABLE MATRIMONIAL EXPERIENCE.

A woman, who in the district of Waichow is considered a beauty, has in the course of years contracted seven marriages. At the age of seventeen she was married to one of the literati, who within six months from marriage had contracted a disease of which he died. She mourned her widowhood for a short time, then fell in love with the deceased's brother for fear that she might be caught and punished for breach of social decorum in the village where she lived she ran away to Canton and married one of the "braves" of the On Y regiment. One day while riding out he fell from his horse and died from the injuries sustained. Next year she married a maker. A fellow of the same trade, by the name of Tit Ma (i.e. iron horse), took a fancy to her and put poison in a cake, and gave it to her husband, who after eating it returned home and died. Tit Ma sent a go-between to her to her in marriage; she accepted his proposal and married him. The brother of her deceased husband having discovered the secret of the marriage, sued the "iron horse" in a court of law on charge of murder. The accused was put in gaol, and in shame at his atrocious act hanged himself. Another year passed and she married a gambler, who, having lost all he had, had no means wherewith to support her, and committed suicide by throwing himself into the river. She shifted into the district of Ka Hing Chow, and one day the "Singsong" took a fancy to an actor named Sew Mu Sam, who often played the part of a warrior or general on the stage. He was a widower, and by mutual arrangement she married to him. He got tired of stage-life and enlisted himself in the army of General Cheung Ching, who sent him to lead the troops to fight against the rebels at Waichow last year, and he was shot dead. The celebrated widow took away whatever was left with her, and afterwards married a brick-mason. The latter day climbed up a scaffolding to superintend his fellow-workmen, fell down from a height of twenty feet, and died. She is now in her twenty-seventh year, in the prime of life. Thus in seven years she has been married seven times.

It is reported from Siam that many people are leaving for some new gold diggings covered only a few months ago in the province of Phanat. The Shans are leaving hundreds for the new diggings, and some Chinese have gone from the railway. The latter have so far done most of the work, which is of course of a primitive character. They do not appear to have to dig to any depth, simply take the muddy earth and wash it, and find their gold. The smallest amount anyone has got for a day's work is worth a few ticals, and the biggest find heard of was a catty weight of the precious metal, which was found in one lump. So far there has been no restriction put on anyone by the Government.

TIENTSIN.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

Tientsin, 25th March.

NO NEWS AND MANY RUMOURS.

The situation is unchanged in its international and imperial aspects, and there is absolutely no progress to chronicle. We have every day the same crop of silly rumours that the Court starts for Peking next week, that the Empress has consented to abrogate her power and to become a pensioner, that she is at death's door with an incurable disease, &c., &c.; but sane spectators of the game know that these are nothing but the creation of the news monger who has to justify his presence to his employers and finds it a very hard thing to do if he confine himself to the tabulation of mere facts. Never before during a decade and a half in North China have I known such a dearth of trustworthy news on the subjects of the Court and Chinese affairs generally. The Japanese vernacular press is especially the victim of false intelligence in connection with things Chinese; one might safely postulate that two thirds of their telegraphic intelligence from China is wrong or speculative, and the other third trivial.

THE END OF THE LOCAL CRISIS.

Our twofold local crisis is over, and we are once more reduced nearly to normal calm. Count von Waldersee was the *deus ex machina* in disposing of the Railway excitement. With great commonsense he suggested that both claimants should withdraw their guards, and leave things exactly as they are till investigation be made into the subject of title. The squabble, as you know, consists entirely in the right to a piece of land sold twice over. Even if fire has destroyed all documentary evidence, priority of possession can be determined by other means. Each side is confident that it is only claiming its own, and disclaims all intention of jockeying the other; if this be so, then a legal investigation under competent and impartial judges is an infinitely better method of establishing claim than by armed guards. In the present attitude of China versus Christendom and Japan a resort to force, until all other means have been tried, would be nothing but a transcendent crime.

ANGLO-FRENCH DIFFICULTY SETTLED.

During the week General Bailloud, the second in command, has come down from Peking and has by a judicious mixture of tact and strength, all but settled the Anglo-French difficulty. He has persuaded his compatriots that the British action in excluding them from the British Concession was not the mere outcome of an acute Gallophobia, but the direct result of the conduct of a few of their more thoughtless comrades; he pointed out the inexpediency of walking six abreast, and of practical joking, and said that if he got the prohibition removed he hoped they would give no justification for reimposing it. Then he approached our people in a friendly way and under a pledge of expressed confidence that the annoyance would not recur got the veto removed. Our folk were only too glad to do it on every ground; among others that the French were making access to the Railway unpleasant, to say the least of it, and it is ever ungracious to be on bad terms with one's neighbours. It is to be understood that the temples of Aphrodite (Japonensis) are only accessible to the gallant Gauls by a pilgrimage through our Settlement, hence many woes. We were just a little anxious yesterday when we had an abundance of young British troops in the town. The Royal Welsh were here *en passant* to Peking. There is no doubt that the Welshmen, especially in alliance with the New South Welshmen and Victorians, would not have wept over an occasion for a little fight just to diversify the tedium of these prosaic times. Things yesterday were in marked contrast to last Sunday, when an Indian was badly mauled and more than one British officer hissed, hustled, or jostled on the roads of the French Concession.

MR. STONEHOUSE'S DEATH.

There is a report, which I have not been able to disprove, that the Rev T. Stonehouse of the London Mission was two days ago brutally killed by a band of mounted bandits some half way between Peking and Tientsin near Lo-Fa. Such an incident, deplorable as it is, is highly

probable, and the wonder is that we have had so few of them during these troublous times. Between Tientsin and Taku, on this side of the River, mounted marauders have been rushing the villages, and making night attacks during the last six weeks. Robbery is almost the only course open to the scallywags of the disbanded soldiery; moreover the bad characters of this whole neighbourhood have for years lived by the piracy on the River, and now that little merchandise comes up they are finding times hard. The military transport is of course always guarded.

CITY AND RIVER IMPROVEMENTS.

The Provisional Government will long be famous in Tientsin for its fine zeal in the way of Public Works; indifferent in many other respects, this assembly of Colonels and Majors has really done more in six months for urban and river improvement than the Chinese would have done in six centuries. The old and useless city walls are down, and are being replaced by good broad streets; a fine promenade now runs for four miles down the Pei Ho's right bank, and this week the Board has anticipated the action of others by devoting T\$ 100,000 to a new form of River improvement, viz. the straightening of the channel by cuttings. At the end of the Tientsin Reach just below the Concessions a new bed is to be cut through a neck of land one mile long, thus obviating a circuitous bend of three miles and two very difficult and shallow corners. Several of these great cuttings are wanted, but this is the most urgent; and it is extremely creditable to the Government that it has attacked the problem. Even if its work is absorbed in that of the proposed "Conservancy," it will still have the credit of inaugurating a great measure of public, and almost national, importance. There is abundance of water in the Pei Ho this spring; Mr. de Linde's scheme is so far completely successful, what is now wanted is to deepen and especially to lengthen the channel in the acute bends. No vessel of over 200 feet can get round them at present.

Later.

THE AUSTRALIANS DEPART.

The Victorian half of the Australian Contingent left us this morning. There was a remarkable demonstration of good will on the Bund at the embarkation. General Campbell voiced the sentiments of all Tientsin, civil and military, in confessing our common obligation for their splendid services; the General said that in all his long service he had never been associated with a finer and better disciplined body of men, and that he and we parted with them with the greatest regret. The band of the Hongkong Regiment played them off, and almost every officer and man off duty in the garrison turned out to wish the men "God speed" home. The New South Wales contingent follows to-morrow from Peking.

I grieve to say the news of the tragedy to Mr. Stonehouse is confirmed, though no particulars are yet to hand.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.]

A MEMORIAL TO THE LATE QUEEN.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."
Hongkong, 8th April.

SIR,—I presume the British community of this Colony intend to do something as a memorial of our late Queen, though up to the present I have not heard of any steps having been taken.

I would propose a meeting to be held in the City Hall to elect a Committee who could invite suggestion as to what form the memorial should take, and when the matter has been thoroughly considered a second meeting could be held to finally decide.—I am, sir, yours, etc.,
R. K. LEIGH.

The funeral of the murdered Capt. Watts-Jones, R.E., took place with military honours at Peking on the 23rd ult. A large number of officers accompanied the cortege from the Ch'ye-fu hospital to the British cemetery outside the wall of the Tartar City.

CHANGE DOINGS.

The morrow of March Settlement,
Hongkong, 1901.

Phew! At last the Settlement, that March Settlement which has been weighing on the Rialto mind for weeks past, that Settlement, which, it had been predicted, would surely cause a slump all round, has come and gone, and yet the market has kept its equilibrium. That it should have occurred on a Saturday was in itself a serious disadvantage, but, thanks to the staff of the banks principally concerned, who on this occasion, as on many other occasions of emergency, were most obliging and accommodating, everything passed off like clockwork.

Such a heavy Settlement has not been known since those never-to-be-forgotten days of 1888 and 1889, when the share mania was at its height. But what a difference between the mad speculation of that mad period, to recover from the evil effects of which it took Hongkong four bitter years, and the healthy investment business of the present day! Instead of the men of straw, who then constituted the bulk of speculators and who, for a time, were able to control the market to their own undoing, we now have sober-minded solid business-men, who would not encourage undue inflation, and who can be depended upon in case of a panic. Instead, too, of the shady ventures, such as bogus tobacco companies, silver mines in unknown lands, and others of the like kind, which were palmed off on a too trusting public and took vast sums of money out of the Colony, we now have sound productive concerns, all, judging from their published statements, in prosperous condition and attracting capital here from all over the East. There can be no question that it is to this last factor that we owe, in a great measure, our present easy financial situation.

The month has not been without its anxieties, but these were only transient, and were tided over without any difficulty. Settlement realisations were generally profitable, but those came off best who held on to the last, and who were not scared into parting with their holdings at the first sign of any slight momentary weakness. The stock which was mostly feared was, of course, Banks, in which a very heavy business had been doing for some time past, but they held firm up to the last. A big line of these shares has found its way up North, but destined, I believe, for a more important market. There was, however, very little new business done during the month, only a few insignificant lots changing hands on time, viz.—374 per cent. to 372 per cent. for July, 365 per cent. to 363 per cent. for May, and 361 per cent. to 358 per cent. for April. The cash rate closed at 353 per cent.

Docks kept steady but quiet during the greater part of the month. Latterly, however, there was again a brisk demand, fancy prices being paid for forward shares when obtainable. The old scrip is now in the hands of the Company, to be exchanged for new. This change is a positive boon to small investors, who will now be able to put their savings in a concern which has been beyond their reach hitherto.

Shipping.—A steady business has been doing in Indos all throughout the month, the northern port being the principal buyer, both for cash and on time. The month's quotations varied very little, having been \$119 to \$121 for June, and \$117 to \$119 cash. Steamboats experienced a heavy drop, falling as low as \$32, but latterly, recovering somewhat, closed steady at \$33. This sudden decline is doubtless owing to that periodical *bête noire* to the Company, another opposition on their line. It is rumoured, however, that the latter has already broken down. Douglases were picked off the market at the uniform rate of \$48, but the supply seems continuous, sellers still ruling the market at the close. Star Ferries appear to be daily coming into increased favour, buyers being prepared to pay \$22 for old shares and \$7½ for new, but very few shares are forthcoming.

China Sugars.—Under this head last month I mentioned that a good statement and a good dividend may be expected. I see I was not wrong in this prediction, as a few days after its appearance in print, the announcement was made that it had been decided to declare a dividend of \$9½ per share, a handsome dividend

indeed, and one much beyond what the most sanguine of shareholders could have expected. When it is remembered, but a twelve-month back, what a sorry plight the company's affairs were in, its recuperative powers must appear all the more remarkable, and the General Managers deserve the greatest credit for effecting this wonderful change in such a short time. It is devoutly to be hoped that the Chairman's anticipations of favourable prospects for the current year will prove equally right as his anticipations of last year have certainly proved. Immediately the dividend became known, a rush, of course, was made for shares, which soon rose from \$134 to \$143; from the latter figure they fell back to \$137, but have since rallied, and close at \$136 *ex div.*

Kowloon Wharves.—The strong enquiry of last month, when the closing rate was \$95, slackened somewhat in the early part of the period under review. Of a sudden, however, a determined demand set in, which, being very poorly met, rapidly pushed up the rate to \$100, but even at this latter figure very few shares were parted with. Rumours of railways, and reports of larger profits that the company is making, have played their part in accounting for the sudden rise, but the real reason probably is these shares have been standing below their intrinsic value for some time. Be that as it may, the market closes very firm, and shares are scarce to find.

Hongkong Lands kept fluctuating between \$195 and \$200, and were done in fair lots, both for cash and on time at perhaps slightly higher than the equivalent cash basis. Humphreys Estates have attracted a good deal of attention, and rose from \$12 to \$13.

Hongkong Hotels.—Not much has been doing in these shares, except a few settlement lots and a small forward business, the rate having remained almost stationary and ranging from \$123 *cum div.* and \$119 *ex div.* The Company's earnings for the last half year, some \$71,000, have, as I said two months ago, not come up to expectation, but this fact did not depress the market any further, seeing that the stock has stood much too low ever since that memorable and boisterous meeting of six months ago, when the directors and shareholders disagreed. On that occasion the director's report was thrown out and an amended one was put to the vote and passed, in spite of their strenuous opposition. *En passant*, it may be permissible to ask, as the result of that meeting, does not the position of the directors appear unprecedented? In the present case we have the curious spectacle of the directors actually declaring a dividend which, on their own admission, they consider is not justified by the profits, and when their maturer judgment would have recommended a smaller one.

Cements.—This company's dividend of 8 per cent. has come rather as a disappointment, holders of this scrip having been in hopes of getting at least 10 per cent. Consequently, shares have been offering freely, and are obtainable at \$18.

Watkins, Limited.—The statement for the year shows a total profit of a shade over \$18,000, not a bad profit for a concern of its size, especially when it is taken into consideration that it was made almost entirely in the company's ordinary business alone. It appears that the manager's several trips to Tientsin, with medical and other comforts, have not borne fruit yet. The quotation is somewhere about \$10½, sellers.

Hongkong Cottons have again had a relapse, and are a drug on the market at \$7.

Mining.—The result of the Raub crushing has come to hand (about 1,500 ozs.), and is certainly more promising. Buyers at \$38 failed to obtain many shares, the market closing very strong. Olivers also appear to be improving, the cabled results of the 19 days' crushing, viz. 300 ozs. out of about 500 tons of ore, raising the hopes of those who have pinned their faith in this company.

ESA.

The suicide is reported from Shanghai of Captain Clemens on the 2nd instant, on board the Chinese Engineering and Mining Co.'s steamer *Kwangping*, whilst she was at sea on a voyage from Tientsin to Shanghai. The act was deliberate, but no motive is known. Deceased was 34 years old.

PUNJOM MINING CO., LIMITED.

The fourth ordinary general meeting of shareholders of the Punjom Mining Company, Limited, was held on Saturday, the 6th inst. Mr. R. C. Wilcox (Chairman), presided, and there were also present Messrs. T. Howard, D. Gillies (Directors), W. H. Gaskell (Secretary), T. F. Hough, E. Kelly, K. Edulji, C. Mooney, F. J. V. Jorge, W. E. Clements, and R. E. Kelly.

The CHAIRMAN said—Gentlemen, before proceeding with the business of the meeting, I should like to say a few words in explanation of my occupation of the chair here to-day. As you are aware, I was invited to join the Board at the commencement of the year, and on my doing so, Mr. Gillies, who has for some time been making preparations to leave for England, asked to be relieved of the duties of Chairman which he has so worthily fulfilled for a number of years, and as the other directors were uncertain as to their movements, I agreed to take the chair provisionally, knowing that I should meantime have the benefit of their advice and experience in the discharge of its duties. No one can pretend to the knowledge Mr. Gillies possesses of the history and operations of the Company, least of all a new comer like myself, but I shall do my best to get thoroughly posted in everything connected with the mines. I propose to-day with your acquiescence to take the Report and Accounts as read. I am sorry that we have not a better record to place before you for the past year, but, as you will doubtless recollect, the Chairman at the last annual meeting had to announce the misfortune from which we have not even yet quite recovered. I allude to the bursting of the embankment of the dam, which deprived us of the motive power for our machinery. I am glad to say, however, that this obstacle is now in a fair way to be overcome, the new dam being nearly completed, and on a larger and more permanent scale, which will enable us to run double the number of stamps we now possess, or 48 head. The work done at the mines during the past twelve months, though not of a showy or immediately productive kind, owing to the disaster above mentioned, has been of a very useful description. Thus, the South Jalis shaft has reached the depth of 100 feet, and drives are now being made at this level. At Mill Gully shaft a depth of 130 feet has been reached, and but for water being encountered drives would ere now have been commenced in it. This water will soon be overcome, as we have a powerful 8½-inch pump engaged on it. A good deal of work has been done, too, in overhauling machinery and repairing plant, &c. in preparation for a time of more active production. Some prospecting has been done in the Swah district, and the appearances there are undoubtedly encouraging, but without testing more thoroughly than has yet been possible it would be unwise to express any definite opinion on this field. It is, however, the intention of the Directors to carry on prospecting on a larger and more systematic scale, and under the skilled direction of Mr. Lester, our new manager. To this end three new miners, specially selected by him, have been sent for, and we hope that in a short time some of the staff will be regularly and specially engaged in this important work. Referring to the new manager, I am glad to say that his impressions of our property, so far as he has been able to inspect it, are most distinctly favourable. It would be unfair to have asked him to make an official report on the mines after his very brief experience, but it may interest you to know that he lost no time, after his arrival, in inspecting the works and taking a brief exploring trip over the concession. He had only been a week at the mines when he wrote his first letter. Referring to the two shafts, he says they are well situated as far as prospecting is concerned, and should be carried on. He is of opinion that the dam would take about four months from that date (22nd February) to complete, and consequently no crushing could be put through before June. By that time stone should be at grass at both Mill Gully and South Jalis shafts. He adds:—I have just returned after being out three days exploring a small portion of the north of your concession, and consider, in the interest of the shareholders, it would be advisable

to abandon all ideas of prospecting in the Pang-gong Valley except the two shafts now being sunk, and vigorously prospect the northern portion of your concession, where without a doubt the future of Punjom lies. Mr. Lester comes to us with first-class testimonials and a long experience; he is a man of great energy and resource; and we may, I think, fairly hope that in him we have at last got the right man in the right place. With regard to the increase of capital agreed to at the extraordinary meeting of the 8th December last, I need only say that the first call is coming in, though rather more slowly than we could wish. I now appeal to those shareholders who have not yet paid this call to do so at once, thereby saving themselves interest and enabling the Board to prosecute work at the Mines with the vigour that Mr. Lester so desires to infuse into it, and which is absolutely necessary if we are to achieve success.

There being no questions, the CHAIRMAN moved the adoption of the report and accounts for the year.

Captain CLEMENTS seconded.

Carried.

Mr HOUGH moved the confirmation of the election of Mr. R. C. Wilcox to the Board of Directors.

Mr EDULJI seconded.

Carried.

Mr JORGE proposed the re-election of Messrs. Gillies, Howard, and W. K. Hughes as Directors.

Mr KELLY seconded.

Carried.

Captain CLEMENTS proposed that Mr Fullerton Henderson be re-elected auditor.

Mr MOONEY seconded.

Carried.

The CHAIRMAN—That concludes the business of the meeting, gentlemen. I thank you for your attendance.

THE ORIENTE HOTEL CO., LIMITED.

The following is the report to the shareholders at the first half-yearly meeting, held on the 11th March, 1901, at the offices of the Company, Manila:—

The directors have pleasure in presenting to the shareholders the first half-yearly report with accounts duly audited.

The net profit on the half year's working, after providing for director's and auditor's fees, and a Government Industrial tax of 5 per cent. on the proposed dividend, amounts to \$31,685.70.

Of this it is proposed to pay a dividend of \$28,000, amounting to 8 per cent. for the half-year, or 16 per cent. per annum, and to carry forward \$3,685.70 to profit and loss account.

The furniture and fixtures, horses, carriages and harness were valued on 31st December, 1900, and stand in the Company's books per figures given in balance sheet herewith.

DIRECTORS.

Mr. Knight resigned his seat on the Board on leaving Manila, and Mr. F. E. Coney, of Messrs W. F. Stevenson & Co., has been invited to fill the vacancy; his appointment requires confirmation at the half-yearly meeting, as also that of Mr. Harry Streiff, of Messrs Kuenale, on the Board; latter left for Europe last month.

AUDITOR.

The accounts have been audited by Mr. Irwin Turner, of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, who offers himself for re-election.

The Oriente Hotel Co., Limited.

WALTER A. FITTON,
Managing Director.

Shortly before the s.s. *Esmeralda* left Manila those on board were surprised at the non-appearance of the 2nd officer at his post on the afterpart of the vessel. Enquiries were set afoot, when it was ascertained that he was lying dead in his cabin. Access was obtained, and a *post-mortem* made by the Manila authorities, who kept the intestines for further evidence as to the cause of death. The body was embalmed and was brought to Hongkong on board the steamer, which arrived on the 5th inst. Whether the death was self-inflicted or not at present remains a mystery.

SUPREME COURT.

Thursday, 4th April.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR SIR JOHN CARRINGTON, C.M.G. (CHIEF JUSTICE).

LUK LAI CHO V. T. H. KINGSLEY.

The following is the judgment delivered by His Honour Sir John Carrington, C.M.G. (Chief Justice) at the Supreme Court on Thursday, the 4th inst., in the above suit, which was brought to determine the legal rights of the parties with respect to a contract for the sale of a Marine Lot at Kowloon.

Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C., for Mr. J. J. Francis, K.C. (instructed by Messrs. Deacon and Hastings) appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. E. H. Sharp (instructed by Mr. C. Ewens), appeared for the defendant.

The judgment ran as follows:—In this case the plaintiff asks the Court by its decree to order the defendant to specifically perform a contract for the sale by him to the plaintiff of Kowloon Marine Lot No. 39 for the sum of \$325,000 on the terms mentioned in the petition and to execute a proper deed of conveyance to the plaintiff upon payment of the purchase money.

The facts of the case are so little in dispute that no oral evidence was taken at the hearing, but the case was argued upon the admissions contained in the pleadings and upon certain documentary evidence which was put in by consent. The facts appearing in this way may be shortly stated as follows:—

The plaintiff resides in Victoria in this Colony, while the defendant generally resides at Shanghai. The defendant is, or at any rate at the time of the issue of the writ was, the registered owner of Kowloon Marine Lot No. 39. It was stated by Mr. Francis, counsel for the plaintiff, with the consent of Mr. Sharp, counsel for the defendant, that at the time of the contract in question the Lot was in the occupation of certain tenants who were storing coal on it, and the last of these tenancies expired on the 31st December, 1900. Apparently the defendant wished to dispose of the Lot, and in October last Kinghorn and Macdonald, consulting mechanical engineers and surveyors, were his agents in the Colony and were authorized by him to obtain offers for the purchase and sale of the Lot. It is material to consider what took place in the way of Kinghorn and Macdonald receiving and transmitting offers before the plaintiff's offer was made. On the 3rd October they telegraphed to the defendant at Shanghai inquiring whether they should sell for his account for \$300,000. On the following day they wrote a letter to the defendant in which they mentioned this telegram and said that, at the time of writing, they had not received any reply to it. They went on to say that, since their telegram had been despatched, they "had received a better offer and would advise him to accept the sum of \$320,000, less the usual brokerage, as soon as he could."

To this letter the defendant on the 13th October sent a telegram in reply in the following terms:—"I accept the offer \$320,000 net, if you cannot do better, but try all you possibly can do to get \$5,000 more. Purchaser will be compelled to take over Government conditions of sale."

On the 18th October the plaintiff made to Kinghorn and Macdonald an offer to purchase the Lot for \$325,000, less brokerage to the purchaser and less an amount paid by the Government to the defendant by way of compensation or refund for a portion of the Lot then lately resumed by the Government. The plaintiff further proposed to pay 10 per cent. of the purchase money on acceptance of this offer and the balance in six months.

On the following day Kinghorn and Macdonald telegraphed to the defendant at Shanghai in the following terms:—"We can sell three hundred twenty-five payable 10 per cent. cash remainder make the time six months what commission will be allowed."

To this telegram the defendant on the next day, the 20th October, sent the following telegram in reply:—"Cannot accept less than three hundred twenty-five net cash." It is round

this little telegram that the noise of battle rolls.

On the same day, on receipt of this telegram, Kinghorn and Macdonald wrote the following letter to the plaintiff:—

"20th October, 1900.

Luk Lai Cho.

Dear Sir,—We are now in a position to accept your offer definitely for the purchase of Kowloon Marine Lot 39 for the sum of \$325,000 net and will not enter into further negotiations with any one.—Yours faithfully,

KINGHORN & MACDONALD.

Terms of payment to be 10 per cent. cash and the remainder in six months from date."

On the same day Mr. Kinghorn telegraphed to the defendant at Shanghai as follows:—"I have sold to-day. I have arranged for the payment within the time mentioned."

To this telegram the defendant on the same day sent the following telegram in reply:—"I confirm sale of Yaumati lot only if terms are in accordance with my telegram 20th October payment in full to myself telegraph me when documents are all in order and payment in full can be made see Deacon Hastings"

On the 22nd October Mr. Kinghorn telegraphed to the defendant at Shanghai saying that the sale was suspended and asking him to wait until he received his letter of the same date. This letter was in the following terms:—

"Hongkong, 22nd October, 1900.

T. H. Kingsley, Esq.,

Shanghai.

Dear Sir,—On the 3rd inst. I sent you a wire saying "Shall we sell for your account \$300,000," and received a reply on the 10th inst. saying that our offer had been forwarded to you at Tientsin. In the meantime I wrote you on the 4th inst. increasing the offer to \$320,000 and advised you to accept it; on the 13th inst. I received a wire from you saying "I accept your offer \$320,000 net if you cannot do better, but try all you possibly can five thousand more, purchaser will be compelled to take over Government conditions of sale, wire reply Shanghai, will most likely arrive there 18th October."

On the 19th inst. I sent you a wire saying "We can sell \$325,000 payable 10 per cent. cash remainder make the time six months what commission will be allowed," and received your reply on the 20th "Cannot accept less than \$325,000 net cash," and on the same day I replied, "We have sold to-day, we have arranged payment with (in) the time mentioned," and received your reply on the 21st, "I confirm sale Yaumati lot only if terms are in accordance with my telegram of 20th October payment in full to myself telegraph me when documents are all in order and payment in full can be made see Deacon Hastings."

Now I am afraid I have made a dreadful mess of it. Immediately on receipt of your first telegram on the 20th, viz. "Cannot accept less than \$325,000 net cash," which I thought referred to the question of commission only, I gave them a note saying that their terms as to time were accepted, and then did what I ought to have done at first, i.e. wired for confirmation of the time, which your next telegram entirely upset, as you then distinctly say payment in full.

Now the question is, what is to be done? I have consulted Messrs. Deacon and Hastings and they advise me to write and explain the whole matter to you and wait your instructions, which I hope you will send by wire if possible. The buyers have offered me the 10 per cent. this morning which I refused to accept as I do not care to, nor do I feel justified in committing you any further until I have sent you an explanation. The reasons that tempted me to make this blunder was the incorrect reading of your telegram of the 20th inst. partly induced by the fact that nearly the whole of the ground is rented and it will take some time to clear it of the large quantity of coal stored on it, and at least three months would elapse before the buyers could take possession, and all the large land sales that I have heard of here have been based on somewhat similar terms, and I don't think it would have been possible to obtain such a high price had I not allowed the time payment.

The buyers seem determined to hold me to my note, in fact their lawyers notified me to that effect this morning, but I have told him I can do nothing until I have further instructions from you.

I hope you will be able to arrange this matter without much trouble as I am aware it is my fault. I had no right to give them a note at all, and only my anxiety to have the matter settled and my not understanding the telegram can be my excuse.

Yours faithfully,

JOHN W. KINGHORN.

On the 27th October the writ was issued.

On the 30th October the defendant arrived in the Colony, and on the 5th November he sold the Lot to the China Commercial Co., Limited, for \$325,000 and received the purchase money.

On the 16th November an offer was made by the plaintiff, through his solicitors, to purchase the Lot for \$325,000 "cash down on completion," but the answer made to this offer by the defendant's solicitor was that the Lot had been already sold as above-mentioned. This offer was made without prejudice to the position taken up by the plaintiff in this suit.

In this state of facts issues were settled for the determination of the questions in controversy between the parties. The defendant in his answer set up the defence *inter alia* that the Statute of Frauds had not been complied with, and the first issue therefore raised this question. It was in the following terms:—"Assuming that Messrs. Kinghorn and Macdonald were acting for and on behalf of the defendant in writing the letter of the 20th October, 1900, set forth in paragraph 8. of the plaintiff's petition, and assuming further that they had authority from the defendant to write the letter, is the letter a sufficient memorandum in writing under the provisions of the 4th section of the Statute of Frauds to charge the defendant upon the contract therein referred to?"

This issue is of vital importance to the plaintiff, for if it is decided against him his case is at an end. It was argued by Mr. Sharp that the letter is defective under the Statute in not containing the defendant's name or any description or identification of him, and that there is nothing in it to show that Kinghorn and Macdonald signed it as agents. But it may be observed that this latter point seems to be precluded by the form of the present issue, which says in so many words that, for the purposes of the issue, Kinghorn and Macdonald are to be assumed as having acted for and on behalf of the defendant in writing the letter. But even if the point were not precluded in this way, I do not think it could avail the defendant. On its face the letter is an agreement which amply satisfies all the requirements of the Statute; the only difficulty which arises is that it is shown by parol evidence that the apparent vendors are in reality not agreeing to sell on their own account but as agents for the actual vendors. But, as was said by Park, J., in *Wilson v Hart*, 7 Taunt. 303, "it is the constant course to show by parol evidence whether a contracting party is agent or principal." That case, it is true, was decided on the construction of the 17th section of the Statute, but this section in its terms as to the kind of writing required, when required at all, almost exactly follows those of the 4th section.

In answer to this objection of the defendant, Mr. Francis relied on *Filby v. Hounsell*, [1896] 2 Ch. 737. In that case, which was decided under the 4th section of the Statute, the vendor's name was omitted from the conditions of sale by auction of a house and from the indorsed form of contract to be signed by a purchaser. The house was not sold at the auction; but subsequently the defendant sent a letter to the auctioneers, in their own name, offering to purchase the house for £350, and stating that if the offer was accepted he would "sign contract on auction particulars." The auctioneers replied by letter stating that on behalf of their client (who was the vendor) naming her, they accepted the offer, "subject to contract as agreed." It was held that as the contract contained the names of both contracting parties (though one was only agent of an undisclosed vendor), on its acceptance there was a valid contract within the Statute of Frauds. In the course of his judgment Romer, J., said—at p. 739:—"The point arising on the plea of the statute is that which concerns the name of the vendor. The defendant says that he has signed nothing which directly or by sufficient reference sets forth who the vendor is. And true it is that the plaintiff's name as vendor does not appear in the offer of purchase signed by the

defendant, and that you cannot gather who the vendor is from the auction form of contract or particulars which are sufficiently referred to for identification in the offer. But the offer does contain the names of the contracting parties. The offer is to Frank Jolly & Co. (the auctioneers), and I think it makes no difference that the offer is made to them as agents for an undisclosed principal. For the purpose of satisfying the Statute of Frauds it appears to me sufficient, so far as parties are concerned, that the written contract should show who the contracting parties are, although they or one of them may be agents or agent for others, and it makes no difference whether you can gather the fact of agency from the written document or not. Who the principals are may be proved by parol. That is well settled."

In the case at bar the position of the parties is different, as the vendor is sought to be made liable through the act of his agents, but this difference does not affect the applicability of the above quoted observations of Romer, J. It may also be added that there is the less merit in this objection of the defendant in the present case in that it is clear that the negotiations for the sale and purchase of the Lot were carried on with express knowledge on both sides of the fact, that the defendant was the real vendor.

Mr. Sharp sought to impeach the authority of Filby v. Hounsell as regards the present case by saying that it was the case of an auctioneer who by custom acts as agent for both parties. This, however, does not seem to be so, for the transaction took place after the auction was over. In *Mews v. Carr*, 26 L. J. Ex. 39, Pollock, C.B., said—at p. 40:—"The sale in this case, which took place after the auction was over, must be considered to be an ordinary sale. . . . Without doubt the auctioneer must be considered as the agent for both parties; but when the sale is at an end that rule does not apply." I think *Filby v. Hounsell* is a clear authority in favour of the plaintiff.

Another case which goes to support the plaintiff's contention on this issue is *Newell v. Radford*, L. R. 3 C. P. 52. There the question was whether the following entry in the plaintiff's book:—

"Mr. Newell, 32 sacks cutlasses at 39s., 280 lbs., to wait orders."

JOHN WILLIAMS."

June 8th.

was a sufficient memorandum in writing of a contract to satisfy the 17th section of the Statute of Frauds. In an action for non-delivery of the flour it was proved that the entry was made and signed by Williams as the duly authorized agent of the defendant, and that the plaintiff Newell was a baker and the defendant Radford was a flour-merchant. It was not disputed that the signature of the agent Williams was sufficient to bind the defendant, but it was contended that the written memorandum did not sufficiently show which of the parties was the buyer. But the Court thought that the parol evidence received was admissible to explain this doubt, and it upheld the memorandum as sufficient within the Statute to charge the defendant.

I am, therefore, of opinion that on this first issue the finding of the Court must be in favour of the plaintiff.

So also with regard to the second issue, which raises the question whether Kinghorn and Macdonald were in fact acting for and on behalf of the defendant in writing the letter. It is not denied on behalf of the defendant that they were so acting.

The next is the main issue in the case. It is:—"Did Messrs. Kinghorn and Macdonald in fact have authority from the defendant to write the letter?"

The answer to this question must depend on the right construction of the documentary evidence in the case, and especially of Kinghorn and Macdonald's telegram of the 19th October, and of the defendant's telegram of the following day in reply. It is not alleged on behalf of the plaintiff that Kinghorn and Macdonald had any general authority from the defendant to enter into a contract for the sale of the Lot; it is therefore necessary for him to show that Kinghorn and Macdonald, in writing and signing the letter, which I have now held to be valid

and sufficient in point of form, had specific authority from the defendant to write and sign it.

The two telegrams to which reference has just been made must be read in the light of the circumstances in which they were written and despatched. Let us consider what had happened before they were sent. In Kinghorn and Macdonald's first telegram, dated the 3rd October, they inquired whether they could sell on the defendant's account for \$300,000. This would mean that the \$300,000 would be payable in full in cash on the completion of the sale and purchase. In their letter of the 4th October they advise the defendant to accept a better offer which they had subsequently received of \$320,000, "less the usual brokerage." This would mean that the \$320,000 would be payable in cash, less the usual brokerage, on the completion of the sale and purchase. To this the defendant replied by telegram on the 13th October that he accepted the offer of \$320,000 "net," if they could not do better, but they were to try all they possibly could do to get \$5,000 more. It will be observed that both these offers were for cash, in the first case in full, in the second subject to "the usual brokerage," and that the defendant had, as regards the second offer, declined to allow the brokerage. It will also be observed that the defendant in his telegram did not use the word "cash"; there was no need for him to do so, because the offer was a cash one, though subject to a suggested commission.

The effect of this telegram of the defendant was that on the 13th October Kinghorn and Macdonald had his authority to accept an offer for the purchase of the Lot for \$325,000 payable in full in cash on the completion of the transaction. No question of a deferred time for payment of the purchase money or any part of it had at that date been raised between the principal and his agents.

Then comes Kinghorn and Macdonald's telegram of the 19th October submitting the plaintiff's offer for the defendant's consideration. There are three terms in the telegram, namely, the price, the time of payment, and the commission to be allowed. The word "cash" is used with respect to the payment of 10 per cent. of the price; the question of deferred payment of part of the price is introduced for the first time. With regard to the price the defendant had already by anticipation, by his telegram of the 13th October, given his sanction to its acceptance; with regard to the two other terms, the deferred payment and the commission, it is clear that Kinghorn and Macdonald had no authority to bind the defendant with respect to them without the express or implied sanction of the defendant. I do not think that mere silence in his reply to their telegram could be taken to convey such an implied sanction; in such a case it would be necessary for the agents to hold their hands and telegraph again for an answer on that point.

Now, how does the defendant in his telegram in reply of the 20th October deal with these three terms of Kinghorn and Macdonald's telegram? He says he "cannot accept less than \$325,000 net." It is manifest that this disposes without ambiguity of two of the three terms of Kinghorn and Macdonald's telegram, namely, the price and the commission. After these words comes the only other word in the telegram, the word "cash." What does this word mean in its ordinary significance? It means "ready money; money on hand or at command." To what does the word refer as used in the telegram? I have no doubt it was intended to refer and does refer to the third term in Kinghorn and Macdonald's telegram, namely, the time and manner of payment of the price or purchase money of the Lot. That it was intended so to refer is clear from the defendant's next telegram, sent on the same day, the good faith of which is not impugned. I think the earlier telegram was intended to convey, and does with sufficient clearness convey, to Kinghorn and Macdonald the defendant's authority to accept an offer for the purchase of the Lot for the price of \$325,000, such price to be payable in full in ready money on the completion of the transaction. Kinghorn and Macdonald regarded the telegram as conveying to them the defendant's sanction to the proposed time and manner of payment of the purchase money, and

in writing to the plaintiff their letter of the 20th October they acted on this view. I am of opinion that this view was erroneous and that, in writing the letter, they had no authority to bind the defendant by an agreement that "the terms of payment were to be 10 per cent. cash and the remainder in six months from date." It is curious to observe that these words do not appear in the body of the letter, but are contained in a postscript. I should be inclined to interpret this as a sign of haste in the writing of the letter.

The answer to the third issue must therefore be in the negative, that is, in favour of the defendant.

The next issue raises the question whether Kinghorn and Macdonald, in writing to the plaintiff their letter of the 20th October, bona fide believed that authority from the defendant to write it was conveyed by their telegram to the defendant of the 19th October and the defendant's telegram in reply of the 20th October. I see no cause to doubt that the answer to this issue must be in the affirmative. I can discover no reason in the evidence before me for questioning the good faith of Kinghorn and Macdonald throughout this transaction.

But then it is suggested, on behalf of the plaintiff, that, even if it be granted that the authority exercised by Kinghorn and Macdonald was not in fact conveyed to them by the defendant, yet the defendant's telegram of the 20th October was so ambiguous in its meaning as to mislead them into taking the action which they did take. The issue raising this point is framed in the following terms:—"Are the said telegrams [that is, the two just mentioned] so ambiguous as to be susceptible, to a reasonably intelligent person reading them with due care, of the construction thus put upon them by Messrs. Kinghorn and Macdonald?"

In dealing with this issue it may of course be admitted that the defendant's telegram of the 20th October might very well, especially having regard to the importance of the transaction, have been fuller and more explicit in its terms. But one naturally looks for compression in an over-seas telegram, and it is reasonable to expect that due care should be used in reading it and in putting a construction upon it. If such due care had been used in the present instance, I do not think that Kinghorn and Macdonald would have had much difficulty in making out the real meaning of the telegram. But it is evident from Mr. Kinghorn's letter of the 22nd October that this due care was not exercised. He quotes the telegram and says he "thought it referred to the question of commission only." But surely the question of commission was covered by the words "\$325,000 net," and it is difficult to see what the word "cash" had to do with that question. And again it may be pointed out, as I have already indicated, that if the defendant's telegram was silent on the question of the time of payment of the purchase money, the agents could not properly infer from that silence an authority to consent to the proposed terms of payment. In such a case they should have done what Mr. Kinghorn admits he ought to have done, that is, telegraph to the defendant "for confirmation of the time." I cannot help thinking that Mr. Kinghorn's letter makes very much against the plaintiff's contention on this issue. For, instead of throwing the blame on the defendant for sending an ambiguous telegram, he takes the blame to himself, saying that he had "made a dreadful mess of it"; that he ought to have "wired for confirmation of the time"; and that he had "made a blunder" in consequence of his "incorrect reading of the telegram." I think he did make a mistake which a little more care and circumspection would have prevented, but at any rate, so far from persisting in his mistake, he did what he could to atone for it by a manly and straightforward admission of his error.

Finding, as I do, in favour of the defendant on this issue, it becomes unnecessary for me to consider the remaining issues. It is also unnecessary for me to pronounce an opinion on a question which was argued at the bar, namely, whether Kinghorn and Macdonald had in any case, in point of law, authority to bind the defendant by entering into a contract in writing on his behalf. The result on the whole case is that Kinghorn and Macdonald, in writing their letter of the 20th October, had no

authority from the defendant to accept the terms of purchase mentioned in it. The defendant is consequently not bound by their action in making the contract for the enforcement of which this suit is brought; and judgment must be entered for him, with his costs of suit.

Thursday, 4th April.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR A. G. WISE (PUISNE JUDGE).

JUDICIAL REMARKS ON A PLAINTIFF'S RESPONSIBILITIES.

The suit of A. Abdoola & Co. v. Miss Mary Jane was disposed of.

It was brought by the plaintiffs who carry on business in Wellington Street, as ladies' drapers and outfitters, to recover from Miss Mary Jane, of Canal Road, Wanchai, the sum of \$16.60 for goods supplied.

The defendant admitted her indebtedness, and said she had been sick and out of employment. She had offered the plaintiff \$10 that morning but he had refused to take it. It was hard for her, more especially as she had dealt with the plaintiff for the past ten years, and had always paid her bills when due.

The plaintiff said the reason he had sued the defendant was because he had sold his business to one, Cooper.

His Lordship—Did you sell the book debts as well?

Plaintiff—No!

His Lordship—Of course you'll say that now. Probably you've sold the whole business.

Plaintiff—I only sold my paper business, not the drapery.

His Lordship—Have you got the agreement for sale with you?

Plaintiff—No!

His Lordship—Well! I must give judgment for the plaintiff, and you (defendant) must arrange with him as to payment. If he is not entitled to the judgment, the responsibility rests with him.

Tuesday, 9th April.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR A. G. WISE (PUISNE JUDGE).

A WAGES DISPUTE.

His Lordship had before him the suit of Ng Sing Chi v. The Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Company, Limited, and the cross action thereto.

Mr. Reece was solicitor for the plaintiff, and Mr. Looker (Messrs. Deacon and Hastings) represented the Company.

It was an action brought by the plaintiff, a captain of a lighter to recover \$90 alleged to be due for wages from 1st January to 15th February, and the cross action by the Company was to recover the same amount, as and by way of damages for breach of contract.

Evidence having been tendered, that of the plaintiff in support of his case, and by Mr. Hammond, an overseer, on behalf of the Company, His Lordship gave judgment for the amount claimed in both suits, with costs.

Wednesday, 10th April.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR A. G. WISE (PUISNE JUDGE).

LAI SUN AND WONG TONG V. LEUNG KWAN SING.

The Court was engaged all the morning in hearing an interpleader summons taken out by one Tsang Ping, of the Hop Lee shop at Tai Kok Sui, to recover a junk distrained upon by the bailiff in the course of enforcing a judgment obtained in the above suit. The action was originally brought to recover \$122 and costs due on a promissory note, and Mr. F. X. d'Almada e Castro, (Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist) who appeared for the claimant in the issue, said that some time in the early part of February his client saw a notice posted up on the side of the junk offering it for sale.

He went to the spot a few days later, accompanied by a friend, and there and then entered into negotiations for the purchase of the junk. Some conversation took place as to the price, and eventually the craft was sold to him for \$225. The negotiations for the sale were entered into before the action was commenced, and after the transaction was effected a stamped document was produced to him confirming the sale.

Mr. Powell, the court bailiff deposed as to the distraint under the judgment, and that the watchman who was on board at the time said that Tsang Ping, the claimant, had purchased the junk, a statement subsequently confirmed by Tsang Ping himself.

Mr. Hays (Messrs. Johnson, Stokes and Master) appeared for the execution creditor.

His Lordship entered judgment for the claimant, with costs.

Thursday, 11th April.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR A. G. WISE (PUISNE JUDGE).

BHOJA SINGH V. ALA SI GH.

This was an action brought to recover damages for malicious prosecution.

Mr. Robinson (instructed by Mr. Grist) appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. Reece represented the defendant.

The plaintiff, a watchman in Government employ, and residing in Kowloon City, complained that on 18th February last the defendant (described in the pleadings as unemployed) maliciously, and without reasonable and probable cause, preferred a false charge of larceny from the person against him (the plaintiff) and caused him to be arrested at Yau-mati, and detained in custody till the morning of the 20th February, when he was released on bail. On surrendering the next day the charge was heard by Mr. Kemp and dismissed. By reason of the arrest and imprisonment, he (the plaintiff) alleged that he had suffered damage to his credit and reputation, and besides had suffered special damage to the amount of \$50, being the costs of his solicitors (Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist) incurred in respect of the prosecution. He (the plaintiff) prayed that the defendant might be ordered to pay to the plaintiff the sum of \$500, as and by way of damages.

The defendant admitted that he caused the arrest of the plaintiff, but that he had sufficient reasonable and probable cause. At the magisterial hearing, however, the plaintiff was bound over in a personal bond of \$50, to keep the peace for six months, and had not, it was submitted, suffered any special or other damage.

Upon counsel opening the proceedings, His Lordship took occasion to remark upon the state of the pleadings. He had nothing to say with regard to the petition as it stood, but he did not think the answer had been drawn properly, or that it was a good pleading. In the claim it was stated that there had been larceny from the person, and inasmuch as the answer stated that the plaintiff was bound over to keep the peace, he (His Lordship) thought the plaintiff should have applied to have struck out that paragraph from the answer as being irrelevant. If they were going to have pleadings in those cases let them have them properly or not at all.

Mr. Robinson for the plaintiff said that on 18th February his client was paying a visit to some of the non-commissioned officers of the Siege Train at Kowloon, and was seated in one of the tents when the defendant came along. Knowing one or two of the men in the tent the defendant told them that he would not go near them as the plaintiff was a bad man. The latter took umbrage at the assertion, and there was the usual rough and tumble. The plaintiff was seized by the hair of the head, and the defendant was held by the beard during the scrimmage, and in the course of which it was alleged that the plaintiff had robbed the defendant. The plaintiff was, however, eventually taken into a tent by one of the sergeant-majors, who thought it was not fit for that sort of thing to go on outside the camp. The defendant was similarly treated by another non-commissioned officer, and eventually told to leave the camp.

He did so, and a short time afterwards returned, and gave the plaintiff into custody on a charge of stealing \$115 from his person during the scrimmage. No money was, however, found upon his person, and he was defended by Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist at the police court and discharged.

Counsel in support of his contention that his client was arrested without reasonable and probable cause, cited the case of *Taylor v. Willans*, 2 *Barnevell's Reports* p. 857, where it was laid down that slight evidence of the defendants' knowledge of the insufficiency of the charge, was all that was required. The defendant had to prove a negative, and the only case he would cite was that of *Buset v. Gibbons*, reported in the *Law Journal Reports*, 18 (New Series) v. 30, where the defendant in an action for maliciously, and without reasonable or probable cause, procuring the plaintiff to be apprehended on a charge of felony, could not rely on circumstances of mere suspicion as evidence of reasonable or probable cause, for a defence to the action, and he was not justified in making the charge. Baron Pollock made this clear, and in discharging the rule in the cited action said that the rule was obtained on the ground that the learned judge who tried the case was wrong in telling the jury there was no reasonable or probable cause to justify the defendant in charging the plaintiff with felony. That learned judge had stated that he did not know whether any satisfactory definition of "reasonable or probable cause" could be found, and it would be very difficult in giving a definition applicable to all the various cases in which the question might arise, which, of course, must depend on their own circumstances. In the cited case there were certain circumstances which might have allowed the defendant to make enquiries about the plaintiff, but they amounted to nothing like reasonable or probable cause; if given in evidence on the prosecution of the plaintiff they ought not in the slightest degree to have conducted to a verdict of guilty. He (counsel) submitted that upon the evidence which he would adduce he was entitled to a judgment, with costs.

The plaintiff was sworn, and generally bore out the statement of counsel in his examination-in-chief. In cross-examination he said he had only been six months in his present position. Prior to that he was at Lai-chi-kok, where he spent sixteen months. Before taking up that position, however, he had been thirteen years in employ at the reservoir, and prior to that even he was in the police for five years. He left the police because he had completed his agreement. He was never charged with felony, but he was placed before his Lordship (Mr. Wise) when that gentleman was on the Magisterial Bench.

Mr. Robinson asked the reason for taking that line of cross-examination.

Mr. Reece—To break down his credit of course. It is only a question of reputation.

His Lordship—I know all about it. I remember the man very well, and it is well that it is brought out in this way.

Mr. C. A. D. Melbourne produced the proceedings of the police court in the prosecution, which were admitted in the usual way.

Further evidence was tendered in support of the plaintiff's case, and at the close Mr. Reece addressed the Court. He submitted that in an action for malicious prosecution the onus proving malice, or that the arrest was made without reasonable or probable cause, was upon the plaintiff. In the present case that had not been done, and the plaintiff had not made out his case. He was surprised that evidence which had been tendered for the defence in the police court had not been produced in that court. The onus of proof was fully laid down in *Roscoe*. The depositions of the lower court had been put in, and from that his Lordship would see exactly what took place when the charge was heard. It would be noted that there had been enmity of feeling between the parties, which the plaintiff had admitted had been in existence for many years. He (Mr. Reece) submitted the action should be dismissed.

His Lordship in delivering judgment remarked that the pleadings in the action had been ordered, and were filed in the usual way. He had referred at the opening by counsel to the defect in them, and he hoped that in future any

pleading, filed in that court would be drafted aright, for it was evident that those in the present proceedings were far from being so. The sole question in his Lordship's mind was, Was the man robbed? In his Lordship's opinion he was not robbed at all, and, he thought, the whole thing was a fabrication. He knew that men like the parties in the action were apt to do what was stated to have been done in that instance. They had a row, and then, on the spur of the moment, they went to the police and charged each other. There would be judgment for the plaintiff for \$100, with costs.

HONGKONG RIFLE ASSOCIATION.

The Easter Prize Meeting of the Hongkong Rifle Association, which opened on Friday, the 5th inst., was continued on Saturday and Monday, the 6th and 7th inst., when all the competition, with the exception of the Ladies' Nomination, were concluded. The last-named event is one always productive of the keenest interest, and it was with great reluctance that the promoters of the meeting decided, on account of the unfavourable weather, to postpone it till to-day, when firing will commence at three o'clock.

Though not all favoured by propitious weather conditions, the competitors on the whole have made very creditable scores. Mr. G. P. Lammert, with a score of 305 out of a possible 350, is the champion shot of the year. Mr. Marshall, second last year, again takes the same place, and Mr. McLennan is third. Appended are the principal scores:—

CHAMPIONSHIP—1st Stage. Seven shots at 200, 500, 600 yards (Highest possible score 105) 4 prizes, \$15, 10, 7, 5 200 yards kneeling.

	200	500	600	Total
1 H. Hobday, A.B. (H.M.S. <i>Goliath</i>)	33	33	31	97
2 Mr. G. P. Lammert	32	35	30	97
3 Mr. J. Marshall	31	32	33	96
4 Sgt. Instr. Wake	27	34	34	95

Range prizes in the above were won as follows:—

At 200 yards:

1 H. Hobday, A.B.	33
2 Mr. G. P. Lammert	32
3 Q. M. Sgt. West, R.E.	32

At 500 yards:

1 Mr. G. P. Lammert	35
2 Sgt. Instr. Wake	34
3 Mr. D. McLennan	34

At 600 yards:

1 Mr. J. Pidgeon	34
2 Sgt. Instr. Wake	34
3 Mr. J. Marshall	33

CHAMPIONSHIP—2nd Stage. 10 shots at 500 yards, 15 shots at 600 yards, 4 prizes, \$15, 10, 7, 5. (H.P.S. 125).

	500	600	Total
1 Mr. J. Pidgeon	49	69	118
2 Mr. D. McLennan	46	71	117
3 Mr. A. Watson	49	67	116
4 Mr. R. Lapsley	48	65	113

Range prizes in the above were won as follows:—

At 500 yds. (H.P.S. 50).

1 Mr. G. P. Lammert	49
2 and 3 } Sgt. Bowery, R.E. and } } Q. M. Sgt. West, R.E. }	49

At 600 yds. (H.P.S. 75).

1st Mr. D. McLennan	71
2nd Mr. J. I. Andrews	69
3rd Mr. J. Pidgeon	69

CHAMPIONSHIP—3rd Stage. 10 shots at 700 and 800 yds. 4 prizes, \$15, 10, 7, 5, (H.P.S. 100).

	700	800	Total
1 Mr. G. P. Lammert	49	47	96
2 Sgt. Instr. Wake	47	48	95
3 Mr. J. Cramer, R.N.	48	47	95
4 Mr. J. Marshall	46	46	92

Range prizes in the above were won as follows:—

At 700 yds. (H.P.S. 50).

1 H. Hobday, A.B.	50
2 and 3 } Mr. G. P. Lammert	49
} Q. M. Sgt. Wallace, R.E. }	

At 800 yds. (H.P.S. 50).

1 Sgt. Instr. Wake	48
2 Mr. J. Cramer, R.N.	47
3 Mr. G. P. Lammert	47

Championship Grand Aggregate.—Aggregate of 3 Stages as above (H.P.S. 330) 10 Prizes.

	1st Stage	2nd Stage	3rd Stage	Total
1 Mr. G. P. Lammert	97	112	96	305
2 Mr. J. Marshall	96	111	92	299
3 Mr. D. McLennan	92	117	86	295
4 Mr. W. Stewart	93	111	90	294
5 Mr. J. Pidgeon	94	118	82	294
6 Mr. A. Watson	86	116	90	292
7 Sgt. Instr. Wake	95	101	95	291
8 Sgt. Bowery, R.E.	91	112	85	288
9 Mr. A. Mackenzie	91	108	88	287
10 Mr. R. Lapsley	90	113	84	287

The following scores are also recorded:—

Mr. J. Cramer, R.N.	89	102	95	286
H. Hobday, R.N.	97	102	87	286
Q. M. Sgt. Wallace, R.E.	95	101	86	282
Mr. D. Baldwin	88	108	85	281

ALL COMERS' AGGREGATE—5 shots at 200, 500, 600, 700, 800 yds., unlimited entries (H.P.S. 125).

	200	500	600	700	800	Total
1 Q. M. Sgt. Wallace, R.E.	23	25	24	25	25	122
2 Mr. A. Watson	23	25	24	25	24	121
3 Mr. G. P. Lammert	22	25	25	25	23	120
4 J. Marshall	23	25	25	24	22	119
5 D. McLennan	18	25	23	25	24	115
6 J. Cramer	22	23	24	22	24	115

Range prizes in above were won as follows:—

At 200 yds. kneeling, 3 prizes, \$10, 7, 5.

1 Mr. J. Marshall	23
2 & 3 } Q. M. Sgt. Wallace, R.E.	23
} Mr. A. Watson	23

At 500 yds. (3 prizes, \$10, 7, 5, to be divided amongst the following, who all scored possibilities):—

Messrs A. Watson, D. McLennan, H. Shoolbred, J. Marshall, J. Pidgeon, G. P. Lammert, Q. M. Sgt. West, H. Hobday, A.B., and Q. M. Sgt. Wallace. (Five 24s counted out).

At 600 yds. (3 prizes \$10, 7, 5).

1, 2 & 3 } Mr. W. Stewart	25
} Mr. J. Marshall	25
} Mr. G. P. Lammert	25

(Three 24s. counted out).

At 700 yds.—(3 prizes, \$10, 7, 5) to be divided equally amongst the following, who scored possibilities):—

Mr. G. P. Lammert, Mr. A. Watson, Q. M. Sgt. Wallace, Pte. Pond, R.W.F., Mr. D. McLennan, and J. E. Crocker, R.N. (Eight 24s. counted out).

At 800 yds. (3 prizes, \$10, 7, 5).

1 Q. M. Sgt. West, R.E.	25
and 2 Q. M. Sgt. Wallace, R.E.	25
3 Mr. A. Watson	24
and 4 Mr. W. Stewart	24

NURSERY AGGREGATE—(For other than A Class shots) 7 shots at 200, 500, 600 yds. (Kneeling at 200). (H.P.S. 105). 5 prizes.

	200	500	600	Total
1 Mr. R. A. Collins	31	34	30	95
2 Pte. Pond, R.W.F.	29	29	31	89
3 Q. M. Sgt. West, R.E.	27	30	31	88
4 Mr. C. A. Ormsby	31	32	25	88
5 Mr. J. I. Andrews	26	28	32	86

The Yangtze being at present clearer than usual, it appears that the natives give their own interpretation of the phenomenon. They say that Russia, instead of demanding the three Eastern provinces, has abandoned the demand in exchange for the Yangtze Valley and the clearness of the water is an omen of the approaching Russians. The officials are taking steps to prevent the exodus of rich people which has already begun, due to this belief, and explain to the people that the absence of the usual turbidity is due to the drought at the sources of the river far west.

ROYAL HONGKONG GOLF CLUB.

CAPTAIN'S CUP AND SILVER MEDAL FOR APRIL.

This was the first monthly competition for the Cup presented by Mr. Palmer, the new Captain, for the year, and it is to be much regretted that incessant rain ruined any chance of a successful inauguration. Out of five entries only one card was returned.

CAPTAIN'S CUP.

Mr. C. M. G. Burnie 90 3 87

There were no returns for the Pool.

For the final possession of the Cup presented by Mr. E. A. Ram in 1900, play was commenced during the latter half of March. 8 of the monthly winners were present in the colony at the time and some good matches resulted, the final being a closely contested game. The result is as given below:—

First Round.—Mr. E. J. Grist (8) beat Mr. J. F. Noble (16) by 3 up and 2 to play. Mr. H. W. Robertson (10) scratched to Capt. H. B. Des Vœux, R.E. (8). Mr. J. H. T. McMurtrie (scratch) beat Mr. T. S. Forrest (+2) by 4 up and 3 to play; and Mr. C. M. G. Burnie (3) beat Mr. E. F. Mackay (5) by a similar number.

Second Round.—Mr. E. J. Grist defeated Capt. H. B. Des Vœux, R.E., by 3 up and 2 to play; and Mr. J. H. T. McMurtrie won easily from Mr. C. M. G. Burnie by 5 and 4.

Final Round.—A very exciting match was witnessed when Messrs. McMurtrie and Grist met in the final. The scratch man had to give his opponent 6 strokes and found it no easy task. The pair were all even at the 17th hole; and with the scratch man giving a stroke at the eighteenth the odds were distinctly in favour of his opponent. But a badly hit second by the handicap man, which found the bunker, gave McMurtrie a chance: and a pretty 4 secured him the victory. The game throughout was stubbornly fought and fine golf was exhibited on both sides.

CHAMPIONSHIP 1901.

Conditions of play are fixed as follows:—

All preliminary "ties" match play of 18 holes, and the final 36 holes, half to be played in the forenoon, half in the afternoon.

First ties to be played on or before Monday, 22nd April.

ROYAL HONGKONG YACHT CLUB.

To-day there will be a race for a Cup presented by the Vice-Commodore, open to yachts in the First and Second classes. Course from usual starting line round a mark-boat off Quarry Bay, Kowloon Rock, the buoy at the South end off the shoal in Hunghom Bay, markboat of Quarry Bay, Kowloon Rock, and back to starting line, all marks to port.

START.

The yachts will be anchored in line to the west line with all sails down. At the second gun they will get under way as they please. Anchors must be weighed, not slipped. Halliards may be bent on but no sail to begin to be hoisted before the second gun. Yachts will be anchored according to numbers drawn by lot, number one being nearest the markboat.

HANDICAP.

Alannah allows

Bonito 40 secs.

Iris 2 min.

Erica 4 "

M. Marian 4 "

Chanticleer 4 " 30 "

Meteor 5 " 30 "

Gloria 5 " 30 "

Doreen 6 " 30 "

Active 8 " 30 "

Dart 10 " 30 "

Payne 11 " 30 "

Ladybird 12 "

To-morrow the 11th Club Race will take place over Course No. 5.

The scene in the harbour yesterday, says the *N.C. Daily News* of the 5th inst., when Captain Alfred Paget gave up command of *H.M.S. Astræa* to assume command of the *Endymion*, showed how he was appreciated by his officers and men. The former rowed him off to the destroyer *Otter*, which was to take him to Woosung, and the latter manned the rigging and cheered lustily as the *Otter* passed by.

BOWLING.

The match on Wednesday and Thursday, the 3rd and 4th inst., between the Hongkong Club and the Club Germania ended in favour of the latter club by 145 points. The scores were:—

CLUB GERMANIA.	
A. Rombach	1689
E. Vollbrecht	1648
J. Wahlen	1619
A. Thiessen	1595
E. Engel	1583
F. Groning	1537
Chas. Lammert	1512
W. O. C. Spalckhaver	1486

Total ... 12,667

HONGKONG CLUB.	
M. Morrison	1726
R. J. Gerrard	1666
K. W. Mounsey	1641
F. Maitland	1572
Capt. Warren, R.A.	1529
E. H. Hinds	1495
P. A. Cox	1456
J. Hooper	1437

Total ... 12,522

The teams played for a challenge shield, which was held by the Hongkong Club in 1899 and by the Club Germania in 1900.

CURIOUS INCIDENT AT KOBE.

The *Kobe Chronicle* records a curious incident at the Kobe Chiho Saibansho last month. It appears that the Japanese judge presiding ordered a Parsee witness to take off his cap in the Court. Our contemporary points out that the action of the judge endangered the course of justice. "It is contrary to the religion of a Parsee to speak, walk, eat or drink either bareheaded or barefooted. It is considered to be sinful for a Zoroastrian to remove his headgear even for a moment—not even when in bed. He can put it aside when bathing or while his hair is being trimmed, but while the headgear is removed he is forbidden to speak a word. Those whose duties require them to lay aside their national costume and put on uniform usually carry a skull-cap in the pocket to wear when the official headgear is removed. If a Parsee takes an oath bareheaded, that oath is considered to be neither valid nor binding on him, and hence in all the Courts in British India, Parsees while affirming are compelled to wear a headdress, even if their profession requires them to appear in European dress. All Indian subjects, whether Hindu or Mahomedan, look upon their headgear as a part of their costume without which it would not be respectful for them to appear in public. In the Courts of law in India, no native of the country is allowed to remove his headgear. Anyone so doing would at once be reprimanded by the Magistrate or the Court usher. In conclusion, to compel an Indian to remove his headgear is equivalent to offering him the worst kind of insult possible, and one which, under ordinary circumstances, he would resent most strongly. It is the duty of a judge in Japan, as in other countries, to understand the manners and customs prevailing in Courts of law abroad—more especially when he is called upon to receive the evidence of members of a foreign religion."

The following notes are from the *Foochow Echo* of the 16th ult.:—The rain, which fields and gardens alike have so greatly needed, has come at last, and the weather generally is milder. The change took place last Sunday, the temperature during that day being as high as 83 degrees, while the night closed cold and wild, with rain. It is generally hoped that this may clear the atmosphere and rid us of influenza and all consequent ills.—A pleasant afternoon was spent on the Recreation Ground last Wednesday which happily kept fine. A handsome prize was presented and competed for in an American Tennis Tournament. Half a dozen couples took part and after a long and hard-fought fight the prize was won by Miss Moorehead and Mr. Howell.—We understand that a visit is shortly expected from the Bishop of Victoria.

GERMAN VIEW OF THE RUSSIANISATION OF MANCHURIA.

The *Ostasiatische Lloyd* of the 5th inst. deals with the question of Russia and Manchuria. Our contemporary says:—

At the opening of spring in each year large numbers of Chinese coolies leave the provinces of Chihli and Shantung for Vladivostok and the Amur territory, Port Arthur, and Manchuria, where they find remunerative employment in the construction of railways, harbours and fortifications. For the most part they return with the setting in of winter, bringing their savings, which from a Chinese point of view are not inconsiderable. Last year many of the coolies were compelled owing to the outbreak of the troubles in June to leave Russian territory and Manchuria early. Thus there arrived in Chefoo in August, from Vladivostok alone, nearly 15,000 Chinese.

The unsafe conditions prevailing in the Amur territory, where the Chinese seem to be regarded almost as outlaws, have now put a complete stop to the emigration to Vladivostok; and so far not a single steamer carrying coolies has left Chefoo for that Port. After their experiences of last year it is unlikely that Chinese in any numbers will in the near future go to Vladivostok and the Amur territory. On the other hand more coolies than ever before have this year directed their steps towards Port Arthur and Manchuria. It is a favourable indication of the development of this territory that, notwithstanding this heavy increase, the demand for labourers is still active and cannot by a long way be satisfied.

That Russia will ever allow Manchuria, which is to-day practically in her hands, to be again snatched from her is not to be supposed. It will certainly not be possible, even for a giant like Russia, to swallow such a territory at one mouthful. The process must rather be a very slow one. The ostensible sovereignty of China will therefore doubtless be maintained until the Russian Government officials can grasp the old machinery of the Chinese organisation. In this way the friction unavoidably connected with every change will be reduced to a minimum and the transfer to Russian possession will over large districts be scarcely felt.

With a just appreciation of the situation the Russians are making a beginning with the collection of the taxes and customs duties. These are in future to be collected in Manchuria by Russo-Chinese officials of European nationality. From the 1st of April of this year, the Imperial Chinese Maritime Customs has placed at the disposal of the Russian Government a number of European officials who will be distributed amongst the larger towns of Manchuria for the collection of the "Inland" duties, etc. These officials receive the same salaries as before from the Chinese Customs, and are paid in addition by the Russian Government a supplementary sum of from 50 to 100 Tls. per month. As these officials will wear Russian uniform, they will naturally be regarded by the resident population not as Chinese, but as Russian officials; and this system will, better than any other, prepare the people for the inevitable change of ownership. For, like all other Asiatics, the Chinese consider those who collect and receive the taxes as their rulers. This intuition has not so far been shaken in China itself, as the foreign Customs collect duties only on goods brought in by ships of foreign build. Foreign goods imported in native bottoms are under the control of native officials. The collection in China of inland taxes and duties, by European officials, even if the proceeds were turned over to the Chinese Government, would be impossible for the reason that the resident population would consider this as equivalent to a renunciation by their Emperor of the supreme power. This, however, merely places the Russian action in so much the more glaring a light.

The Russianization of Manchuria has commenced with this measure, and its official incorporation in the Russian State can only be a question of time.

H.M. cruiser *Talbot* was to be commissioned at Devonport on Wednesday last, the 10th inst., for service on the China Station, relieving H.M.S. *Bonaventure*.

NEW FOREIGN OFFICE PUBLICATION ON CHINA.

Under the heading of "China, No. 2, 1901" the Foreign Office issued at the beginning of March a despatch received in the previous month from His Majesty's Ambassador in St. Petersburg respecting the Russo-Chinese Agreement as to Manchuria. The despatch reads as follows:—

Sir C. Scott to the Marquis of Lansdowne.—
(Received February 11.)
St. Petersburg, February 6, 1901.

My Lord,

I have the honour to report that I found an opportunity to-day, whilst avoiding any appearance of asking explanation of Russia's proceedings in Manchuria, to ascertain from Count Lamsdorff what might be stated as the actual facts with regard to the alleged Agreement between Russia and China as to Southern Manchuria in case interpellations were addressed to His Majesty's Government in Parliament on this subject.

Count Lamsdorff gave me the true version of what had taken place very readily.

He said that as far as he had read the allegations in the Press, which would probably give rise to questions in Parliament, they had asserted that Russia had concluded, or was engaged in concluding with China, a Convention or permanent arrangement which would give Russia new rights and a virtual Protectorate in Southern Manchuria.

This was quite untrue, and the only ground for the rumour must have been the fact that the Russian military authorities who had been engaged in the temporary occupation and pacification of that province had been directed, when reinstating the Chinese authorities in their former posts, to arrange with the local civil authorities the terms of a *modus vivendi* between them for the duration of the simultaneous presence of Russian and Chinese authorities in Southern Manchuria, the object being to prevent the recurrence of disturbances in the vicinity of the Russian frontier and to protect the railway from the Russian frontier to Port Arthur.

Some of the details of the proposed *modus vivendi* had been sent for consideration to St. Petersburg, but no Convention or arrangement with the Central Government of China or of a permanent character had been concluded with regard to Manchuria, nor had the Emperor any intention of departing in any way from the assurances which he had publicly given that Manchuria would be entirely restored to its former condition in the Chinese Empire as soon as circumstances admitted of it.

Russia was in the same position with regard to fixing a final date for evacuating Manchuria as the Allies found themselves with regard to the evacuation of Peking and the Province of Pechili.

When it came to the final and complete evacuation of Manchuria the Russian Government would be obliged to obtain from the Central Government of China an effective guarantee against the recurrence of the recent attack on her frontier and the destruction of her railway, but had no intention of seeking this guarantee in any acquisition of territory or of an actual or virtual Protectorate over Manchuria, the object being to simply guarantee the faithful observance in the future by China of the terms of the Agreement with which she had been unable to fulfil during the disturbances.

The terms of this guarantee might possibly form the subject of conversation here between Count Lamsdorff and the Chinese Minister, or be left for discussion at Peking.

Meanwhile it might be confidently stated that any arrangements which may have given rise to the allegations in the Press were purely of the temporary character of a *modus vivendi* between the Russian military authorities and the local civil authorities in Southern Manchuria, that no Convention or arrangement had been concluded with the Central Government of China in contemplation of any alteration of the former international status of that province, which would be restored to China when all the temporary measures taken by the Russian military authorities would cease, and

everything at Newchwang and elsewhere be replaced in its former position.—I have, &c.,
(Signed) CHARLES S. SCOTT.

The following note is appended to the despatch by the Foreign Office:—

NOTE.—His Majesty's Ambassador, in a telegram dated February 27th, 1901, states that Count Lamsdorff has no objection to the publication of this despatch as an accurate report of the language held by him in conversation with Sir C. Scott.

HONGKONG.

Mr. H. E. Tomkins, of the firm of Messrs. Reiss & Co., has joined the Board of Directors of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation in place of Mr. R. M. Gray, who recently left for England.

Among the arrivals on the 9th inst. by the *Chelydra* was Lieut. A. Blake, son of the Governor, who will act as A.D.C. to His Excellency. The new Commissioner of Chinese Imperial Maritime Customs at Kowloon is Mr. R. B. Moorhead.

During the absence from the Colony of the Hon. A. M. Thomson, Hon. E. R. Belilios, and the Rev. R. F. Cobbold, Mr. A. W. Brewin, the Hon. Dr. Ho Kai, and the Rev. F. J. Johnson have been appointed members of the Governing Body of Queen's College.

The death penalty will not be carried out in the case of the widow Wong Po, who was convicted of the murder of an ex-messenger of the Supreme Court, at 143, Queen's Road East, and sentenced to death on the 25th ult. The reason, we understand, is the condemned woman's condition.

Mr. G. J. W. King offered for sale on the 9th inst., at the offices of the Public Works Department, two lots of Crown land, the first, Inland lot 1633, situated at Bowen Road, and having an area of 25,000 square feet, with an annual rent of \$172. The upset price was \$6,250, and the sum realised was \$6,270. Mr. Shelton Hooper, of the Land Investment Company, was the purchaser of the lot, which is to be used for the erection of European houses. Rural building lot 106 was bought by Mr. Alexander Mackenzie for \$2,000, and will be similarly built upon.

On Tuesday evening, 2nd inst., the Red Dragon Lodge gave a reception to the members of the Order serving in the Royal and United States Navy, prior to their leaving Hongkong. Both Navies were well represented, H. M. S. *Hart*, *Aurora* and *Goliath*, and the U.S. flagship *Kentucky* being well to the fore in numbers. After a well spread supper had been disposed of, the remainder of the evening was given up to a very good vocal and instrumental concert, interspersed with addresses, Brother J. H. Darley, D.R.W.G.T., being in the chair, and conducting with his usual humorous manner. This meeting clearly illustrated the world-wide brotherhood of the I.O.G.T., as it was noticed that in addition to the United Kingdom, Norway, Sweden and Denmark, also five of the United States were represented, this being the first time on record that such a representative gathering of members have met in Hongkong.

Information has reached the colony of the death of Mr. G. E. Noble, who was formerly the Chief Manager of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation. Mr. Noble was one of the very few remaining employees of the Bank in the early sixties. His first position was at Shanghai in 1866, and he took such a lively interest in his duties that he soon became a marked man, rising step by step till he attained the position of Chief Manager in 1889. In consequence of ill-health he was compelled to leave the Colony, and on his return home in the nineties was given the appointment of one of the London Managers. He joined the London Committee of Directors in December, 1897, and was a member of that body till the last. Mr. J. F. S. Noble, who is now in the local branch of the Corporation, is a son of the deceased gentleman. Another son who mourns his loss is Mr. W. G. Noble, sub-accountant in the branch of the Chartered Bank at Manila. The sad event has cast a gloom over the commercial circles of the colony in which the name of Mr. Noble has been for many years so highly respected.

On the 4th inst. the German cruiser *Hansa* arrived in the Harbour from Tsingtau, the British sloop *Rosario* from Weihaiwei, and the French cruiser *Styx* from Canton.

It has now been finally settled that the Bengal Lancers will leave here for the North in two sections in the steamer *Clavering*, that vessel making two distinct trips for the purpose.

The return of visitors to the City Hall Library and Museum last week shows that the former institution was visited by 392 non-Chinese and 94 Chinese, the latter by 149 non-Chinese, and 1,823 Chinese.

The figures for the rainfall as recorded at the Observatory from the 6th inst. to the 9th inst. inclusive are as follows:—6th and 7th, .97; 7th and 8th, 3.42; 8th and 9th, .49. It will thus be seen that by far the heaviest rainfall was on Sunday and Monday, the 7th and 8th inst., as indeed residents here were able to appreciate.

Inspector Collett, of the Police Force, who was recently promoted to his present rank from that of sergeant, has been placed in charge at No. 2 (Wanchai) Police Station. Inspector Ford, whom he relieves, assumes the office left vacant by the departure for home of Inspector Duncan—that of Inspector of Weights and Measures, Vehicles, and Dangerous Goods.

The British transport *Ula*, which was to have taken the first of the Bengal Lancers up North, has been inspected and found to be unfitted for the work. The authorities are now awaiting the arrival of another transport, and meantime the departure of the troops is uncertain. It is intended to send by the *Ula* remnants to the number of 124 and various ordnance stores.

We are informed by Messrs. John D. Humphreys & Son, General Managers of Olivers Freehold Mines, Limited, that they have received a telegram from the Mines giving the result of last month's crushing as follows:—“505 tons of quartz crushed for a yield of 328 ounces refined gold; mill ran 19 days; 500 feet cross-cut is making good headway, expect to strike reef in five weeks.”

A concert in aid of the funds of the Soldiers and Sailors' Home was held at the Home, Arsenal Street, on the 9th inst. The Hon. J. J. Keswick presided, and an appreciative audience favoured the concert. Those who took part in the concert were Mrs. Hagen, Mrs. Hamilton and Mr. P. Dow, who sang, Mrs. Kelly who played the zither, and Messrs. E. Dannenberg and Graca, instrumentalists. The Hon. F. H. May and Mr. Keswick recited.

The fire which broke out on the 8th inst., shortly after 9 p.m., in a rattan-shop at 120-122, Second Street, turns out to have been rather a bigger affair than was at first thought. The highly inflammable material gave the flames a firm hold, and the first and second floors in each place were gutted before the Brigade, under Deputy Superintendent Badeley, gained the mastery. The damage has not yet been estimated, nor is the cause of the outbreak known.

Three fatal accidents were reported by the police on the 8th inst. The first case was that of a hawker who fell down the hold of a ship in the harbour on Saturday last, and was instantly killed. An earth-coolie was pursuing his risky calling at Yaumati on Sunday, when a sudden collapse of the banking resulted in his being suffocated. Several Chinese children were playing amongst some heavy logs at Yaumati on Sunday, when one of the logs rolled down from its place and killed a little boy.

On Wednesday evening a well-attended benefit concert was given in St. Patrick's Club to Sergeant O'Toole, late of the Naval Yard Police, who is leaving for home on the 17th inst. by the *König Albert*. The band of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers gave their services gratuitously, as did those who appeared on the programme, which included nearly every feature of variety entertainment. The concert was arranged by Sergeant Conway, R.E., and other friends. Sergeant O'Toole has seen twenty-five years' service in the colony, eight years as sergeant. He has been allowed a gratuity of \$1,200, and as he is the father of a large family, the concert was arranged in order to make it unnecessary to encroach on his gratuity. At the conclusion of the concert, Mr. Peake, hospital head wardmaster in Victoria Gaol, returned thanks on behalf of Mr. O'Toole.

Among the arrivals by the steamer *Coptic* were Brigadier-General Pipon and Colonel The O'Gorman.

Mr. Alec Marsh left for Shanghai on Saturday last, and expects to give his first concert in the Model Settlement on the 16th inst.

A coolie fell down the hold of a ship in the harbour on the 5th inst., and was removed to the Tung Wah Hospital, suffering from serious injuries.

A native bricklayer employed on a building in course of erection near the rope works at Kennedytown fell on the 4th inst. from the roof to the ground, and was killed.

Among the departures by the steamer *Tamba Maru* on the 5th inst. were Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Shepherd, Mr. and Mrs. G. A. Caldwell, Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Grace and Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Main.

In the Public Works Department, Mr. C. H. Gale has been appointed Executive Engineer, Mr. A. H. Hollingsworth Senior Assistant Engineer, and Mr. J. M. Xavier Assistant Engineer.

A house in course of erection at 81, Nullah Lane, Wanchai, partly collapsed on the 8th inst., shortly after five o'clock. Fortunately the workmen had left the building, and no one was hurt.

H.M.S. *Aurora* left on the 9th inst. for Singapore to take part in the reception of the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall and York, and was followed on the 11th by H.M.S. *Arctura*. The hospital-ship *Carthage* left for Calcutta.

Messrs. Hughes and Hough, Government auctioneers, on Thursday offered for sale, opposite the City Hall, twelve horses cast from the Bengal Lancers, all of which were broken and trained for military purposes. Bidding was good, and the animals were disposed of at prices ranging from \$20 to \$130.

The Italian cruiser *Stromboli* arrived from Shanghai on the 10th inst., bringing back Chev. Z. Volpicelli, Italian Consul-General, who has been up north to confer with the Italian Admiral. On Thursday the Captain of the *Stromboli* paid his official call at Government House.

During the 24 hours ending at noon on Friday there were reported two fresh cases of plague and one death (Chinese), bringing the figures for the year up to 105 cases and 101 deaths. One fresh case of small-pox was reported, with one death (Chinese), bringing the figures up to 64 cases and 43 deaths.

In connection with the lawn tennis tournament of the Hongkong Cricket Club, Thursday's results in the competitions were as follows:—“A” Class Handicap—Slade, owes 1/6, beat Harrold, 15, (6-4, 4-6, 6-3) and Pinckney beat Gresson (6-2, 6-3); “B” Class Handicap—Lee, owes 15 4, beat O. D. Thomson, owes 3/6 (6-1, 6-4).

The Brough Comedy Company leave Shanghai for this port to-day by the German mail steamer *König Albert*, and open their season at the Theatre Royal with *The Tyranny of Tears* on the 15th. This play seems to have proved a striking success at Shanghai, and indeed the entire season there has been a triumph for the Company. All the new plays of the Brough repertoire will be staged, as will several old favourites. There are, we hear, to be no revivals—that is to say, a play put on at the beginning of the season will not be put on again during the stay of the Company in Hongkong.

On the 8th inst. information was received at the Central Police Station that a murder had been committed at the mess in Kennedy Road of the senior and junior clerks employed by the Mitsu Bussan Kaisha Steamship Company. Detectives sent to investigate the affair found at the mess the dead body of a Chinese servant boy, and a Chinese watchman under arrest on suspicion of having caused his death. The body, which bore no outward marks of violence, was removed to the mortuary and the accused man taken to the police station, pending enquiries. Dr. Thomson held a post-mortem examination on the body, and has returned a finding of death from heart failure. The Chinese watchman who was arrested on suspicion of causing his death has accordingly been released.

MISCELLANEOUS.

It is now stated that the Japanese Standing Squadron will not proceed to North China, Corea, and Vladivostok this year.

It is stated that Shanghai is not to be deprived of the whole of the pom-pom battery now there, as only a small portion will go North.

The U. S. battleship *Kentucky* left on the 8th inst. for Manila. Rear Admiral Kempff, who has recently transferred his flag from the *Newark* to the *Kentucky*, has left with her.

According to *Indian Engineering*, very little British cement is now imported in the East, the Hongkong manufacture being said to be now chiefly used and small quantities of Belgian make.

Mr. Williams, who was United States Consul at Manila before the war, and who has been appointed Consul-General for the United States in the Straits Settlements, is expected there shortly by the U. S. cruiser *Buffalo*.

The *N. C. Daily News* mentions a Peking despatch to the effect that the Japanese military officials in that city have lately issued a proclamation inviting the natives to enlist in a Chinese regiment which the former intend to raise after the manner of the Weihaiwei Chinese Regiment.

The following telegram was received on the 30th ult. by the committee of the gentry, etc., at Shanghai, from the Oriental Association at Tokyo:—To be prepared against the designs of Russia must be the first concern of China and our country. Let us aid each other in preserving the peace and integrity of the Far East.

Another Canton passenger-boat has met with a sad mishap, and over a score of persons have lost their lives thereby. She was laden with passengers, some of whom were going to Ping Chow and others on grave-worshipping business. When the latter place was reached the passengers en bloc rushed to one side, and nearly capsized the craft. As it was nearly four score were thrown in the water, and one score at least were drowned, notwithstanding that a number of boats put out to the rescue.

It appears from Chinese reports that a certain treasury in Peking, known as the Spoils and Fines Treasury, which escaped the attention of the Allies, contained over 591,550 taels. The guards put there by the Chinese made off with over 4,000 of it when they were discovered. Prince Ching at once had the money removed to safer quarters in the office of Board of Revenue Treasury outside the Au Ti gate, and the offenders have been handed over to the Board of Punishments.

Captain Talone da Silva, Harbour Master at Macao, died very suddenly there on the 3rd inst. He appeared to be in his usual robust health when he left the office at one o'clock for tiffin, but shortly after reaching home he was taken ill and died in a few minutes. The deceased, who was about forty-five years of age, was married and leaves a wife, but no family. Captain da Silva was a well-known and highly respected official, and as a mark of respect for his memory, the flags on all public buildings in Macao and on the ships in the harbour were lowered to half-mast.

Captain James Fowler, of the trading steamer *Phra Chom Klao*, died on the 7th inst. at half-past ten in the Government Civil Hospital from apoplexy. Whilst at Bangkok lately the deceased had an apoplectic seizure, and was carried from the bridge unconscious, in which state he remained between four and five hours. On coming to Hongkong he made arrangements with his agents to take a long holiday for the benefit of his health, and temporarily resigned the command of his ship. On the 6th inst., at about ten p.m., soon after returning on board from a visit ashore, he had a second stroke of apoplexy. Dr. Gibson was promptly in attendance and ordered his removal to the Government Civil Hospital, where he died without regaining consciousness. Captain Fowler, who was unmarried and aged about 43 years, had been altogether seventeen years in China, and was at one time connected with the British Oriental and the Scottish Oriental Steamship Companies. He was commodore skipper with the latter line. The deceased was well-known and greatly respected in Hongkong and elsewhere. He was a native of Australia.

Saigon, we are informed by a private wire, has declared Manila a plague infected port.

On the 2nd inst. the French residents in Shanghai presented a farewell address to their Consul-General, M. de Bezanre.

The *Shanghai Mercury* of the 29th ult. says:—We understand that the 14th Sikhs are under orders to proceed north, and will leave Shanghai in a few days.

Japanese telegrams from Shanghai report that the privileges of the Club there have been extended to Japanese naval officers, in spite of the opposition of the French members. The British members voted for the proposal.

The following committees have been appointed on the new Municipal Council at Shanghai:—Watch: Messrs. B. yne, Ede, and Hewett; Works: Messrs. Landale, Prentice, and Rohde; Finance: Messrs. Haroon, Kiunear, and Quackenbush.

Visiting the ancestral tombs is now in full swing among the Chinese, both in Hongkong and Canton, and the servants and employees of Europeans in both places are observing the custom like every one else. Consequently many householders are now at the mercy of the substitute.

It is stated in Shanghai that of the Commissioners of Customs now awaiting orders there, Mr. Hobson will remain in Shanghai. Mr. Aglen going to Nanking, Mr. Morgan to Canton, and Mr. Smollett Campbell to Swatow. The *N. C. Daily News*, confirming the report, adds that Mr. F. S. Unwin is appointed to Ichang, Mr. E. V. Brennan to Hangchow, and Mr. Paul King to Pakhoi.

Important manoeuvres have just been concluded in Tonkin. General Dodd, who was in chief command, expressed the greatest satisfaction with the work, and said that with the collaboration of the skilful Brigadier-Generals who commanded the troops, he was ready to face any situation, however grave, that could arise in Indo-China. The number of men engaged was 7,000 infantry, with five batteries of artillery (33 guns) and a small force of cavalry.

General Gaselee, according to an Indian despatch, will probably succeed to first-class Command in India on returning from China, when General Henry would naturally be confirmed as Quarter-Master General.

COMMERCIAL.

TEA.

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO UNITED KINGDOM AND CONTINENT.

	1900-1	1899-00
	lbs.	lbs.
Hankow and Shanghai...	—	—
Amoy	637,355	523,317
Foochow	—	—
Canton	—	—
	637,355	523,317

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

	1900-1	1899-00
Shanghai	—	—
Amoy	16,424,161	13,616,678
Foochow	—	—
	16,424,161	13,616,678

SILK.

CANTON, 29th March.—Teatles.—No settlements are reported. Re-reels.—30 bales of No. 1 Grant and 20 bales of No. 3 Grant, have been settled at \$580 and \$550. Filatures.—Continued to be in good demand; although Lyons prices showed a marked decline, a good business was done owing to the drop in Exchange. Prices continue to be very irregular, best chops fine and mid sizes sixth crop Silk still fetching very high prices, whilst Silk of previous crops only finds buyers at comparatively low rates. From prices paid quotations are:—\$765 for Kwong Shun Hang 11/13; \$760 for Sun Yu Lun 9/11 and Sai Sill Lun 11/13; \$755 for Han King Lun and Hau King Sing 13/15; \$750 for King Seng 13/15; \$745 for Wing King Lun, Wing Wo Lun and Yee Wo Loong 9/11; \$735 and \$730 for Kai Sam Cheong 13/15 and Kwong Lun Fung 11/13; \$720 for Mee Kee and Shun Kee 11/13; \$710 for Kwong Lun Hing 11/13; Hang Wo Cheong 13/15 and Yuen Fung Shing 15/17; \$700 for King Sing's Gold Lion 16/18; \$685 for Man Po Lun, Kwong Wo Sing and Yuk Wo Hing 10/12; \$680 for Hip Sam Choy 13/15; \$675 for Man Po Sing 16/18 and How King Cheong 13/15.

\$680 for Wai King Wo and Min Wo Cheong 18/22; \$657 for Tung Hing 11/13; \$610 for Koon King 26/30; \$630 for Hing Lun and Tung Hing 11/13; \$610 for Yu Ye Cheong 30/35. Short-reels.—Have been in little demand. From prices paid quotations are:—\$755 for Han King Lon 14/16; \$780 for King Shing's "Gold Lion," \$630 for Kwong Wo 14/16, and \$650 for Kwong Shing Lun 14/16. Waste.—Quiet, prices weak. Appended are quotations in Canton, with laying down cost in London and Lyons, Exchange 4 months' sight, 1/11½, and Fcs. 2.50 per Dollar.

EXPORT OF SILK FROM CHINA AND JAPAN TO EUROPE.

	1900-1901	1899-00
	bales.	bales.
Shanghai	45,161	61,699
Yokohama	—	—
	45,161	61,699

EXPORT OF SILK FROM CHINA AND JAPAN TO AMERICA.

	1900-1901	1899-00
	bales.	bales.
Shanghai	8,151	17,721
Yokohama	—	—
	8,151	17,721

CAMPBOR.

HONGKONG, 12th April.—No arrivals.

SUGAR.

HONGKONG, 12th April.—The prices are further advancing, market being very brisk. Quotations are:—

shekloong, No. 1, White.....	\$8.70 to \$8.75 pcl.
do. " 2, White.....	6.90 to 6.95 "
Shekloong, No. 1, Brown ...	5.85 to 5.90 "
do. " 2, Brown ...	5.80 to 5.85 "
Swatow, No. 1, White.....	8.65 to 8.70 "
do. " 1, White.....	7.75 to 7.80 "
Swatow, No. 1, Brown ...	5.75 to 5.80 "
do. " 2, Brown ...	5.65 to 5.70 "
Foochow Sugar Candy.....	13.10 to 13.15 "
Shekloong "	12.45 to 12.50 "

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

Per steamer *Freiburg*, sailed on the 1st April. For Havre:—1 case silks, 3 cases human hair, 3 cases China ink, 4 cases copperware, 4 cases curios, 5 cases blackwoodware, 14 cases birds' feathers, 22 cases bristles, 35 bales canes, 38 rolls matting, 50 cases staranised, 78 cases chinaware, 241 bales hides. For Havre and/or Hamburg:—4 bales tea mats, 7 cases cantharides, 15 bales hides, 29 cases chinaware, 30 cases human hair, 39 cases fire crackers, 50 bales canes, 10 cases staranised. For Havre and/or Hamburg and/or Antwerp:—12 bales cowhides, 25 cases bristles. For Havre and/or Hamburg and/or London:—25 cases bristles, 200 cases gallnuts. For Havre and/or Antwerp:—27 bales hides. For Hamburg:—3 cases tea, 4 cases ponga, 5 cases chinaware, 10 cases wood oil, 14 pkgs. sundries, 25 cases camphor, 30 cases essential oil, 31 bales hides, 34 cases private effects, 40 cases bristles, 50 bales rattan shavings, 65 cases fans, 85 rolls matting, 200 cases fire crackers, 249 bales canes, 375 cases staranised, 392 bales feathers. For Hamburg and/or Antwerp:—8 bales hides, 31 bales feathers. For Hamburg and/or London:—63 bales strawbraid, 195 pkgs. canes. For Hamburg and/or Antwerp and/or London:—179 pkgs. strawbraid. For Antwerp:—10 cases strawbraid, 61 bales hides. For Copenhagen:—13 cases preserves.

Per P. & O. steamer *Bombay*, sailed on the 6th April. For London:—70 bales waste silk opt. Manchester, 50 bales cane, 10 pkgs. effects, 17 pkgs. effects and curios, 3 cases human hair, 891 cases cannon crackers. For Manchester:—50 bales waste silk.

Per Imperial German Mail steamer *Stuttgart*, sailed on the 3rd April. For Suez:—3 boxes silk. For Trieste:—150 bales rattan shavings. For Genoa:—182 bales raw silk, 10 cases essential oil. For New York:—75 cases essential oil. For Antwerp:—62 rolls matting. For Amsterdam/Rotterdam:—23 pkgs. rattan furniture, 5 cases blackwoodware. For Bremen:—202 rolls matting, 4 cases curios, 2 cases China ink. For Hamburg:—100 boxes palmleaf fans, 38 bales feathers, 27 rolls matting, 14 boxes blackwoodware, 9 boxes human hair, 8 boxes bambooware, 5 boxes China ink, 4 boxes feathers. For Manchester:—51 bales waste silk.

OPIUM.

HONGKONG, 12th April.—Bengal.—In sympathy with Shanghai our market was very firm. Prices advanced to \$935/74 for Patna and \$987 1/70 for Benares. At the close a quieter feeling prevails, owing to the activity in the North having somewhat subsided, but rates remain nominally unchanged.

Malwa.—A small business was done at the following rates:—

New at	\$820 per picul
2 Years' at	\$830 "
3 Years' "	\$840 "
Older "	\$8'0/60 "

Market closes very quiet.

Persian.—Further purchases of firm quality have been made by the Japanese at \$812 1/15 per picul.

STOCK.

Patna	1,750
Benares	297
Malwa	722 1/2
Persian	2,582 1/2

COTTON.

HONGKONG, 12th April.—Insignificant sales at a decline of \$1 to \$1 1/4 per picul, closing depressed. Stock, about 10,000 bales.

Bombay	17.00 to 19.00 picul
Bengal (New), Rangoon, and Dacca	18.00 to 20.00 "
Shanghai and Japanese	22.00 to 23.50 "
Tungchow and Ningpo	22.00 to 23.50 "
Sale	75 bales.

YARN.

Mr. P. Eduljee says in his Report, dated Hongkong, 12th April.—Towards the close of last mail the market lapsed into a state of quietude from which it was soon disturbed by the appearance of some large importers with instructions to force sales. Our local dealers availed themselves of this opportunity to lay in stock to meet the resumption of the country demand next month, and having a wide and varied selection, to choose from, cleared the market of all desirable spinnings on offer, with the result that over 9,000 bales have changed hands at a decline of \$1 to \$2 per bale. Subsequently, reports of a slightly upward turn in Shanghai, the decline in exchange and higher cost of importations combined with the continued firmness of Japanese threads, have had the effect of arresting the downward tendency and instilling a little firmness into the market. Holders now refuse to sell at last quotations and have towards the close succeeded in recovering almost the whole of the decline. The market has again become quiet but closes strong. We therefore make no alteration in our quotations, which for the time being may be considered more or less firm. Supplies during the interval have not kept pace with requirements and stocks show a slight decrease on last estimate, but will shortly be augmented by heavy receipts on the water and now close at hand.

Local Manufacture.—The local mill has lowered its prices \$1 per bale, but so far no increased demand has been experienced and the prospects of the concern appear anything but encouraging. Sales reported are 350 bales No. 10s., at \$85; 125 bales No. 12s., at \$86 1/2 to \$86; and 50 bales No. 16s., at \$93.

Japanese Yarn.—The market is bare of stock, the firmness and higher prices ruling in the home market including the possibility of immediate supplies, and as a consequence Bombays No. 16s. and 20s., attract more attention. We quote Settsu No. 20s., \$108 to \$107.

Raw Cotton.—Cotton during the interval has been a dead letter, no negotiation being entered into, excepting a forced sales of 50 bales machine-ginned Bengal at \$20, which shows a decline of fully \$2 per picul. Stocks are accumulating and we estimate unsold Indian descriptions at about 10,500 bales. Quotations are \$17 to \$20 Bengal, and Chinese \$22 to \$23. Stock nil.

Exchange on India after some fluctuations closes to-day at Rs. 146 1/4 for T/T and Rs. 146 1/4 for post. On Shanghai 72 1/4 nominal, on Yokohama 3 1/2 per cent. premium.

The undernoted business in imported and local spinnings is reported from Shanghai for the fortnight ending 7th instant, viz:—

Indian.—Prices have ruled irregular, till at the close the market has rallied and an extensive business has been reported on basis of late quotations. Total sales 10,225 bales, comprising 5,912 bales No. 10s., 160 bales No. 12s., 50 bales No. 14s., 400 bales No. 16s., and 3,703 bales No. 10s. Estimated unsold stock about 27,000 bales.

Japanese.—Market strong and steady. Total sales about 3,000 bales, on the basis of Tls. 77 to 79 1/2 for No. 16s., and Tls. 79 to 81 for No. 20s. Stock nil.

Local.—Market firm and prices steady, sales reported being about 2,500 bales on the basis of Tls. 62 to 68 for No. 0s., Tls. 66 to 71 for No. 12s., Tls. 71 to 74 for No. 14s., and Tls. 73 to 75 for No. 16s.

RICE.

HONGKONG, 12th April.—The downward tendency continues, market being dull. Quotations are:—

Saigon, Ordinary	\$2.60 to 2.65
" Round, Good quality	2.81 to 2.85
" Long	3.10 to 3.15
Siam, Field mill cleaned, No. 2	2.85 to 2.90
" Garden, " No. 1	3.30 to 3.35
" White	3.75 to 3.80
" Fine Cargo	4.00 to 4.05

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

HONGKONG, 12th April.—Among the sales reported during the week are the following:—

YARN AND PIECE GOODS.—Bombay Yarn: 50 bales No. 6 at \$75.50, 100 bales No. 8 at \$78.50 to \$79, 2,100 bales No. 10 at \$80 to \$88, 1,000 bales No. 12 at \$85 to \$90, 650 bales No. 16 at \$92 to \$100, 1,550 bales No. 20 at \$94 to \$108. White Shirtings: 3,000 pieces No. 1 at \$67.24, 251 pieces Gold Elephant at \$4.45, 3,000 pieces N 1 at \$67.24, 250 pieces Gold Elephant at \$4.45. Grey Shirtings: 600 pieces 8 1/2 lbs. Blue Punch at \$3.55.

METALS.—Wire Iron Nails: 400 kegs Middle at \$7.25 to arrive, 300 kegs Fine at \$9.10 to arrive. Quicksilver: 50 flasks at \$170, 81 flasks at \$168. COTTON YARN—

Bombay—Nos. 10 to 20s.	\$75.00 to \$108.00
English—Nos. 16 to 24	114.00 to 120.00
" 22 to 24	120.00 to 128.00
" 28 to 32	136.00 to 142.00
" 38 to 42	155.00 to 170.00

COTTON PIECE GOODS—

Grey Shirtings—3 lbs.	2.10 to 2.15
7 lbs.	2.40 to 2.50
8.4 lbs.	2.80 to 3.50
9 to 10 lbs.	3.60 to 4.40

White Shirtings—54 to 56 rd.	2.50 to 2.75
58 to 60 "	3.15 to 4.00
64 to 66 "	4.20 to 5.50
Fine	5.10 to 7.75
Book-folds	4.30 to 6.20

Victoria Lawns—12 yards	0.75 to 1.50
T-Cloths—6lbs. (32 in.), Ord'y.	1.70 to 1.85
7lbs. (32 ")	1.90 to 2.20
6lbs. (32 "), Mexs.	1.90 to 2.15
7lbs. (32 ")	2.75 to 3.60
8 to 8.4 oz. (36 in.)	2.80 to 3.50
Drills, English—40 yds., 14 to 16 lbs.	4.20 to 7.00

FANCY COTTONS—

Turkey Red Shirtings—1 1/4 to 8 lbs	1.55 to 5.00
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Brocades—Dyed

Chintzes—Assorted	0.08 1/2 to 0.17
Velvets—Black, 22 in.	0.22 1/2 to 0.60
Velveteens—18 in.	0.20 to 0.22 1/2

Handkerchiefs—Imitation Silk 0.36 to 2.50

WOOLENS—

Spanish Stripes—Sundry chops	0.80 to 1.50
Habit, Med. and Broad Cloths	1.25 to 2.50

Long Ells—Scarlet

Assorted	6.40 to 10.00
Camlets—Assorted	6.50 to 10.10
	12.50 to 32.00

METALS—

Lastings—30 yds., 31 inches	8.00 to 20.00
Assorted	
Orleans—Plain	8.50 to 10.00

Blankets—8 to 12 lbs.	4.00 to 18.00
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Iron—Nail Rod	4.00 to —
Square, Flat Round Bar (Eng.)	4.00 to —
Swedish Bar	6.50 to —
Small Round Rod	4.50 to —
Hoop 1 to 1 1/2 in.	5.25 to —
Wire 15/25	7.50 to —
Old Wire Rope	2.50 to —
Lead, L. B. & Co. and Hole Chop	9.00 to —
Australian	8.70 to —
Yellow Metal—Muntz 14/20 oz.	41.00 to —
Vivian's 14/20 oz.	40.50 to —
Elliot's 14/20 oz.	40.50 to —
New Chops 14/20 oz.	— to —
Composition Nails	63.00 to —
Japan Copper, Slabs	42.00 to —
Tin	69.50 to —

Tin-Plates	6.75 to —
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Steel 1/2 to 1	5.75 to —
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VERNON & SMYTH'S SHARE REPORT.

HONGKONG, 12th April.—Since our last report business has been interfered with by the Easter holidays. On the market re-opening, however, a brisk general demand set in, and most stocks—notably Docks—have increased in value.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai have been placed at 356 and 357 per cent. premium for cash, and close firm at 358 per cent. premium. On time, a sale is reported at 375 per cent. premium for August. Nationals continue in request at \$26 1/2, without inducing business.

MARINE INSURANCES.—Unions have continued in demand, and the rate has risen to \$280, at which there are buyers. China traders have been sold at \$55 and are now wanted at \$56. Yangtszes have been sold at \$130. Cantons have been placed at \$157 and \$158, and have further buyers at \$16 1/2.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkong Fires continue in demand at \$320, at which several parcels have changed hands. China Fires have been sold at \$82 and \$83 and continue in request at the latter rate.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macao have found buyers at \$33 1/2, and a limited demand continues. Indos have been done in large lots, chiefly for Shanghai, at \$120 to \$122 cash, and there are further buyers at the latter rate. China and Manila (old) are obtainable at \$60. The new shares are in request at \$38. Douglasses have improved in favour, and after sales at \$48, \$48 1/2, and \$49 are wanted at the latter figure. Star Ferries have advanced to \$23 and \$8 for the old and new shares respectively and there are further buyers. China Mutuals and Shell Transports are unchanged at quotations.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars have been placed and are obtainable at \$135. Luzons are quiet at \$38.

MINING.—A sudden demand for Punjoms has raised the rate to \$6, at which further shares can be placed. Raubs have been sold at \$39, but at the close are weaker at \$38. Olivers "B" are wanted at \$1.15. Other stocks under this heading are unchanged.

DOCKS, WHARVES AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks have experienced a phenomenal rise, and sales cash have been effected at rates ranging up to \$270. The demand continues, and further shares could be placed at the quotation. On time, sales have been effected at \$285 for August. Hongkong and Kowloon Wharves have been placed at \$103 and \$104 cash, and close steady. Sales for June are reported at \$106 and \$107. Wanchai Warehouses are wanted at \$63. New Amoy Docks have sellers at \$22.

LANDS, HOTELS AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands have been neglected during the interval and are obtainable at \$2 0. Kowloon Lands have buyers at \$28. West Points have been sold at \$49 and \$50, and are wanted at the latter rate. Hongkong Hotels have been placed at \$120 and close with a few sellers at \$121. Humphreys Estates have again come into favour and have been placed at \$13 and \$13 1/2, the market closing with buyers at the higher rate. Orientes are unchanged.

COTTON MILLS.—Ewos have been sold and have further buyers at Tls. 44. Hongkong Cottons have sellers at \$7 1/2.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Green Island Cements have improved in favour, and sales at \$18 1/2, \$19, and \$19 1/2 in considerable quantities are recorded. The market closes with sellers at the latter rate. China Borneos continue in request at \$39, but shares are not forthcoming. Electrics have declined to \$12 1/2 and \$6.90 for the old and new shares respectively, at which there are sellers. For Hongkong and China Gas Co.'s shares buyers will now pay \$135, but shares are not obtainable. Ices are wanted at \$163, and Tramways at \$200. United Asbestos are in demand at \$10. China Providents are obtainable at \$9 1/2, and Watkins at \$10. Cigar shares are negotiable at quotations.

MEMOS.—China Borneo Company, Limited, ordinary general meeting, and Green Island Cement Co., Limited, ordinary general meeting to-morrow, the 13th instant. Olivers Freehold

Mines' Limited, ordinary annual meeting on the 16th instant. Great Eastern and Calodonian Gold Mining Co., Limited, extraordinary meeting on the 18th instant.

Closing quotations are as follows:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Banks—		
Hongkong & S'hai...	\$125	{ 358 p. ct. prem. = \$572, buyers L'don, £60.
China & Japan, ordy.	£1	£1.
Do. deferred	£1	£5 5s.
Natl. Bank of China		
A. Shares	£8	\$261, buyers
B. Shares	£8	\$261.
Foun. Shares	£1	\$15, sellers
Bell's Asbestos E. A.	£1	\$1.
Campbell, Moore & Co.	\$10	\$20.
China Light & Power) Co., Ltd.	\$20	20, nominal
China Prov. L. & M.	\$10	\$9.20, sales
China Sugar	\$100	\$135, sellers
Cigar Companies—		
Alhambra, Limited.	\$500	\$1,500, buyers
La Commercial, Ltd.	\$500	\$1.0 0, buyers
Hensiana, Limited.	\$100	\$100, buyers
La Favorita, Ltd.	\$500	\$1.0 0, buyers
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo	Fls. 100	Fls. 44, buyers
International	Fls. 100	Fls. 45.
Laou Kung Mow	Fls. 100	Fls. 55.
Soychee	Fls. 500	Fls. 325.
Yahloong	Fls. 100	Fls. 50.
Hongkong	\$100	\$71, sellers
Dairy Farm	\$6	\$7, buyers
Fenwick & Co., Geo.	\$25	\$55, sellers
Green Island Cement	\$10	\$194, sellers
H. & C. Bakery	\$50	\$50.
Hongkong & C. Gas	£10	\$135, buyers
Hongkong Electric	\$10	\$124, sellers
H. H. L. Tramways	\$5	\$6.9, sellers
Hk. Steam Water boat Co., Ltd.	\$100	\$200, buyers
Hongkong Hotel	\$50	\$121.
Hongkong Ice	\$25	\$163, buyers
H. & K. Wharf & G.	\$50	\$104.
Hongkong Rope	\$50	\$157.
H. & W. Dock	\$125	\$27, buyers
Insurance—		
Canton	\$50	\$16, buyers
China Fire	\$20	\$82, buyers
China Traders'	\$25	\$56, buyers
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$320, buyers
North China	\$25	Fls. 182.
Straits	\$20	nominal.
Union	\$50	\$280, buyers
Yangtze	\$60	\$130, sales
Land and Building—		
Hongkong Land Inv.	\$100	\$200, sellers
Humphreys Estate	\$10	\$131, buyers
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$28, buyers
West Point Building	\$50	\$50, buyers
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$38.
Mining—		
Charbonnages	Fcs. 250	\$300, sellers
Gt. Estn. & C'donian	\$3	nominal.
Do. Preference	\$1	40 cents
Jebeu	\$5	\$5.
Queen's Mines, Ltd.	25c.	nominal.
Olivers Mines, A.	\$5	\$14.
Do. B.	\$4	1.15, buyers
Punjom	\$9	\$6.
Do. Preference	\$1	\$1.20.
Raub	18	\$38, sellers
New Amoy Dock	\$61	\$22, sellers
Oriente Hotel, Manila	\$50	\$80, sellers
Robinson Piano Co., Ltd.	\$50	\$50, nominal
Steamship Coys.—		
China and Manila	\$50	\$60, sellers
China Mutual Pref.	\$20	\$38, buyers
China Ordinary	£10	£12.
Do.	£5	£7.
Douglas Steamship	\$50	\$49, buyers
H. Canton and M.	\$15	\$334, buyers
Indo-China S. N.	£10	\$122, buyers
Shell Transport and Trading Co.	£1	£3, sellers
Star Ferry	\$10	{ \$23, buyers \$8, buyers
Tebrau Planting Co.	\$5	\$3, sellers
United Asbestos	\$4	\$10, buyers
Do.	\$10	\$20.
Wanchai Warehouse	\$374	\$63, buyers
Watkins, Ltd.	\$10	\$10, sales & sellers
Watson & Co., A. S.	\$10	\$17.
Universal Trading Co., Ltd.	\$5	\$5.

VERNON & SMYTH, Brokers.

CLOSING QUOTATIONS.

FRIDAY, 12th April.

ON LONDON.—EXCHANGE.

Telegraphic Transfer	1/11½
Bank Bills, on demand	1/11½
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	1/11½
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight	1/11½
Credits, at 4 months' sight	1/11½
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	2/0

ON PARIS.—

Bank Bills, on demand	2.45½
Credits, 4 months' sight	2.50

ON GERMANY.—

On demand	1.99½
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ON NEW YORK.—

Bank Bills, on demand	47½
Credits, 60 days' sight	49½

ON BOMBAY.—

Telegraphic Transfer	146½
Bank, on demand	146½

ON CALCUTTA.—

Telegraphic Transfer	146½
Bank, on demand	146½

ON SHANGHAI.—

Bank, at sight	72
Private, 30 days' sight	73

ON YOKOHAMA.—

On demand	3½ p.c. pm.
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ON MANILA.—

On demand	2½ p.c. pm.
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ON SINGAPORE.—

On demand	1 p.c. pm.
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ON BATAVIA.—

On demand	117½
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ON HAIPHONG.—

On demand	2½ p.c. pm.
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ON SAIGON.—

On demand	2 p.c. pm.
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ON BANGKOK.—

On demand	60½
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SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate 10.12

GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael 52.75

BAR SILVER per oz. 27½

TONNAGE.

HONGKONG, 12th April.—The volume of business transacted during the period under review is larger than that of preceding fortnight, and freights remain firm. From Saigon to this, 33 cents per picul was paid last week, but at the close the market is weaker, and not more than 28½ cents per picul is obtainable for medium sized carriers; to Philippines, 42 cents per picul is offered; to Java no enquiry. Bangkok to this, tonnage is wanted at 35 and 30 cents per picul. Newchwang to Canton, no charters have been effected, and the rate is nominally 40 cents per picul. Japan coal freights are firm. Moji to this, \$2.60; to Singapore, \$3; to Manila, \$4.50 per ton.

The following are the settlements:—

Trym—Norwegian steamer, 710 tons, Newchwang to Amoy, 40 cents per picul.
Sabine Rickmers—British steamer, 690 tons, Newchwang to Amoy, 40 cents per picul.
Cimbria—Dutch steamer, 1,355 tons, Moji to Hongkong, \$2.60 per ton.
Agamemnon—British steamer, 4,462 tons, Moji to Hongkong, \$2.50 per ton.
Sarnia—German steamer, 2,052 tons, Amoy to Singapore, \$7.50 each.
Milos—German steamer, 1,695 tons, Hongay to Singapore, \$3 per ton.
Shantung—British steamer, 1,835 tons, Hongay to Singapore, \$3.5 per ton.
Milos—German steamer, 1,695 tons, Bangkok to Hongkong, 30/35 cents per picul.
Glengyle—British steamer, 2,244 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 29 cents per picul.
Shantung—British steamer, 1,835 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 29 cents per picul.
Germania—German steamer, 1,714 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 31 cents per picul.
Kyoto Maru—Japanese steamer, 1,666 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 31 cents per picul.
Emma Luyken—German steamer, 1,109 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 32 cents per picul.
Holstein—German steamer, 985 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 32 cents per picul.
Tritos—German steamer, 1,033 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 32 cents per picul.
Sishan—British steamer, 845 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 32½ cents per picul.
Nanyang—German steamer, 1,060 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 33 cents per picul.

Nanchang—German steamer, 1,063 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 33 cents per picul.

Independent—German steamer, 1,040 tons, Saigon to Iloilo and for Cebu, 42½ cents one port, 40 cents per picul two ports.

Skarpno—Norwegian steamer, 1,140 tons, monthly, 6 months, at \$8,750 per month.

Marie Jebsen—German steamer, 1,771 tons, monthly, 6/3 months, at \$10,000 per month.

Oslo—Norwegian steamer, 777 tons, monthly, 12 months, private terms.

VESSELS ON THE BERTH.

FOR LONDON.—Chusan (str.), Idomeneus (str.), Agamemnon (str.), Ajax (str.), Antenor (str.), Sanuki Maru (str.), Candia (str.).

FOR LIVERPOOL.—Tantalus (str.), Pyrrhus (str.).

FOR MARSEILLES.—Oceanien (str.), Sanuki Maru (str.), Candia (str.).

FOR BREMEN.—Konig Albert (str.).

FOR VICTORIA, B.C.—Tartar (str.), Idsumi Maru (str.), Glenogle (str.).

FOR VANCOUVER.—Empress of India (str.), Tartar (str.).

FOR SAN FRANCISCO.—Coptic (str.), America Maru (str.), City of Peking (str.).

FOR NEW YORK.—Richmond Castle (str.), Asturia (str.).

FOR SAN DIEGO.—Strathgyle (str.).

FOR AUSTRALIAN PORTS.—Tsinan (str.), Yawata Maru (str.).

FOR TRIESTE.—Trieste (str.).

FOR SINGAPORE, PENANG, AND BOMBAY.—Bormida (str.).

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST

MAIL.

April—

ARRIVALS.

- 4, Hermione, British cruiser, from Shanghai.
- 4, Pelayo, British str., from Singapore.
- 5, Calabria, Italian cruiser, from Shanghai.
- 5, Loongmoon, German str., from Shanghai.
- 5, Strathgyle, British str., from Moji.
- 5, J. Diederichsen, Ger. str., from Haiphong.
- 5, Taichow, German str., from Bangkok.
- 5, S. Rickmers, Brit. str., from Pratas Shoal.
- 5, Sungkiang, British str., from Manila.
- 6, Esang, British str., from Canton.
- 6, Hinsang, British str., from Samarang.
- 6, Yuensang, British str., from Manila.
- 6, Anping Maru, Jap. str., from Foochow.
- 6, Ernest Simons, Fr. str., from Yokohama.
- 6, Hailan, French str., from Pakhoi.
- 6, Kutsang, British str., from Hongay.
- 6, Phranang, German str., from Bangkok.
- 7, Bormida, Italian str., from Bombay.
- 7, Eva, German steamer, from Kobe.
- 7, Esmeralda, British str., from Manila.
- 7, Haitan, British str., from Coast Ports.
- 7, Pingsney, British str., from Seattle.
- 7, Trym, Norwegian str., from Singapore.
- 7, Australian, British str., from Kobe.
- 7, Largo Bay, British ship, from Nagasaki.
- 8, Hongkong, French str., from Haiphong.
- 8, Glenfalloch, British str., from Straits.
- 8, Athenian, British str., from Vancouver.
- 8, Taishun, Amr. str., from Shanghai.
- 8, Taiyuan, British str., from Yokohama.
- 8, Hunan, British str., from Chinkiang.
- 9, Guthrie, British str., from Sydney.
- 9, Daphne, German str., from Moji.
- 9, Inaba Maru, Japanese str., from London.
- 9, Chelydra, British str., from Calcutta.
- 9, Idsumi Maru, Jap. str., from Shanghai.
- 9, Obi, British str., from Cardiff.
- 9, Thyra, British str., from Barry Dock.
- 10, Benlarig, British str., from Bangkok.
- 10, Hikosan Maru, Jap. str., from K'chinotau.
- 10, Loosok, German str., from Bangkok.
- 10, M. Jobsen, German str., from Haiphong.
- 10, Thales, British str., from Swatow.
- 10, Bamberg, German str., from Yokohama.
- 10, Daijin Maru, Japanese str., from Swatow.
- 10, Peiyang, German str., from Chinkiang.
- 10, Stromboli, Italian cruiser, from Shanghai.
- 11, Clara, German str., from Pakhoi.
- 11, Independent, German str., from Chefoo.
- 11, Yarra, French str., from Marseilles.

- 11, Feiching, British str., from Shanghai.
- 11, Dr. H. J. Kier, Norw. str., from N'chwang.
- 11, Haiching, British str., from Coast Ports.
- 11, Hainan, German str., from Chefoo.
- 11, Skarpeno, Norw. str., from Moji.
- 11, Chusan, British str., from Shanghai.
- 11, Wongkoi, German str., from Yap.
- 11, Charterhouse, British str., from Singapore.
- 11, Macedonia, British str., from Wuhu.
- 12, Haimun, British trapt., from Weihaiwei.
- 12, Aristea, Austrian str., from Moji.
- 12, Lalpoora, British str., from Manila.
- 12, Taigo Maru, Japanese str., from Chefoo.
- 12, America Maru, Jap. str., from S. Francisco.
- 12, Suliberg, German str., from Chefoo.

April—

DEPARTURES.

- 4, Gymeric, British str., for Manila.
- 4, Cassius, German str., for Kobe.
- 5, Paoting, British str., for Canton.
- 5, Tamba Maru, Jap. str., for London.
- 5, Foochow, British str., for Shanghai.
- 5, Savoja, German str., for Hamburg.
- 5, Kong Beng, German str., for Swatow.
- 5, Devawongse, German str., for Hoihow.
- 5, Machew, German str., for Bangkok.
- 5, Taksang, British str., for Bangkok.
- 5, Taisang, British str., for Shanghai.
- 6, Polstava, Russian battleship, for Nagasaki.
- 6, Hansa, German cruiser, for Sydney.
- 6, Bombay, British str., for London.
- 6, Chingtu, British trapt., for Sydney.
- 6, Phra C. C. Kiao, British str., for Bangkok.
- 6, Loongsang, British str., for Manila.
- 6, Hoihao, French str., for Hoihow.
- 6, Babelsberg, German str., for Canton.
- 6, Taishan, British str., for Swatow.
- 6, Thales, British str., for Swatow.
- 7, Lyeemoon, German str., for Shanghai.
- 7, Esang, British str., for Shanghai.
- 7, Sa'line Rickmers, British str., for Swatow.
- 7, Maikuru Maru, Jap. str., for Swatow.
- 7, Hailoung, British str., for Haiphong.
- 7, Macduff, British str., for Moji.
- 7, Mozambique, British ship, for Tacoma.
- 7, Elsa, German str., for Hongay.
- 7, Kentucky, U.S. battleship, for Manila.
- 8, Ernest Simons, French str., for Europe.
- 8, Jacob Diederichsen, Ger. str., for Hoihow.
- 8, Adamastor, Portuguese cr., for Macao.
- 8, Ula, British transport, for Taku.
- 8, Carthage, British hosp. ship, for Calcutta.
- 9, Hunan, British str., for Canton.
- 9, Chunsang, British str., for Singapore.
- 9, Phra C. Kiao, British str., for Bangkok.
- 9, Hailan, French str., for Hoihow.
- 9, Progress, German str., for Tourn.
- 9, Aurora, British cruiser, for Singapore.
- 10, Hertha, German cr., for Woosung.
- 10, Haitan, British str., for Swatow.
- 10, Yuensang, British str., for Manila.
- 10, Glenfalloch, British str., for Amoy.
- 10, Arratoon Apcar, British str., for Calcutta.
- 10, Chihli, British str., for Shanghai.
- 10, Reynolds, British str., for Moji.
- 10, Anping Maru, Japanese str., for Swatow.
- 11, Arethusa, British cruiser, for Singapore.
- 11, Firebrand, British gunboat, for Canton.
- 11, Linnet, British gun-vessel, for Home.
- 11, Germania, German str., for Saigon.
- 11, Sarnia, German str., for Amoy.
- 11, Hongkong, French str., for Haiphong.
- 11, Yarra, French str., for Shanghai.
- 11, Pelayo, British str., for Swatow.
- 11, Guthrie, British str., for Shanghai.
- 11, Sungkiang, British str., for Manila.
- 11, Taiyuan, British str., for Australia.
- 12, Inaba Maru, Japanese str., for Kobe.
- 12, Thales, British str., for Swatow.
- 12, Australien, British str., for Sydney.
- 12, Hikosan Maru, Jap. str., for Kutchinotzu.
- 12, Feiching, British str., for Canton.
- 12, Etruria, British str., for Shanghai.
- 12, Macedonia, British str., for Canton.
- 12, Kutsang, British str., for Java.
- 12, Kwanglee, British str., for Shanghai.
- 12, Bormida, Italian str., for Bombay.
- 12, Dr. H. J. Kier, Norw. str., for Canton.
- 12, Hainan, German str., for Canton.
- 12, Phranang, German str., for Bangkok.

PASSENGERS LIST.

ARRIVED.

- Per *Paoting*, from Shanghai, Mr. Smith.
 Per *Savaja*, from Shanghai, Drs. Luce, Tilenius and Meinecke.
 Per *Formosa*, from Tamsui, &c., Mr. Zahlsen.

Per *Bombay*, from Foochow, Mr. Seymour.
 Per *Loongmoon*, from Shanghai, Mr. W. S. Lincoln.

Per *Strathgyle* from Moji, Mr. and Mrs. L. Levy.

Per *Yuensang*, from Manila, Capt. Hardford, Dr. D. J. Jones, Mr. F. Newpon, Mr. and Mrs. Stephenson, Mr. R. Lopez and daughter, Messrs. W. Adams, Jose de Otero, H. C. Field, J. P. Marley, J. J. King, R. R. Sang, C. Brown, N. Hirota, D. Henderson, A. C. Powell, E. E. Harris, W. W. Wright, K. Kishida, W. A. Pr. nitt, P. Anderson.

Per *Coptic*, for Hongkong, from San Francisco, Commanders J. J. Cogswell, U.S.N., W. Swift, U.S.N., R. R. Ingersoll, Mrs. C. L. Stanley, Mrs. S. Burnham, Mrs. Lottie Downs, Messrs. W. P. Powell, P. A. Williams and C. M. Abbott: from Honolulu, Messrs. R. Kirk, W. B. Jones, W. P. Slemmer and Miss E. G. Leggett; from Yokohama, Comdr. J. K. Barton, U.S.N.; from Kobe, Mrs. Godsey, Messrs. Nelson Clark and T. J. Cowan; from Nagasaki, Surgeon J. D. Halsell, U.S.N.; from Shanghai, Brig. Gen. Pipon, Colonel O'Gorman, Lieut. Palmer, Captain Coxhead, R.A., Messrs. A. MacKillop, R. Tower, Duncan and J. M. Shields.

Per *Haitan*, from Coast Ports, Mr. Wandries.

Per *Sungkiang*, from Manila, Capt. H. Wilson.

Per *Esmeralda*, from Manila, Mr. Zeigh, Mr. and Mrs. Harding, Miss Crozin, Mr. and Mrs. Emersol, Mrs. H. Cox, Mr. P. C. Horsey, Capt. C. M. Thomas, U.S.N., Mr. Fox, Mrs. J. W. Laoandruski, Messrs. Samuels, C. F. Davies, C. R. Rusby, S. Hutchins, U.S.A., Wells and Kuhn.

Per *Ernest Simons*, for Hongkong, from Yokohama, Miss Clara Apitzsch, Messrs. R. Kintoul and Atsutaro Hatsumoto; from Kobe, Mr. Ferdinand Gross; from Shanghai, Messrs. O. Michael, H. Hobden, D. Lambert, C. S. de Mongaillard, R. B. Moorhead, U. F. Wintour, Will. A. Peavis, D. Miller, F. W. Wechmann, Schomaner, Neumann and W. Hebbertine: for Saigon, from Shanghai, Mr. Blase and Mrs. Guillerault: for Singapore, from Shanghai, Mr. H. S. Kempthorne; from Nagasaki, Mr. Sato: for Port Said, from Nagasaki, Mr. Andrieff: for Marseilles, from Kobe, Mr. and Mrs. Buschendorff; from Nagasaki, Messrs. Delaunay, de Lacoste, Baresaud, Grenet, Proustaux, Cluzeau, Stelle, and Kloster Meyer; from Shanghai, Messrs. Berteau, Sevellec Bernard, Cume and Contesse de Bezaure, Mrs. Labrenie, Mrs. Cholat, Messrs. V. Duval, Magnan, P. Louat, W. Mordhost, W. Paszek, Wm. Gemmell, Evenon Guillaume, A. Cumming, Eug. Rapp, Maurice Doudlet, Scrbouchi Joseph, Clapet Meloir, Mrs. Heugnet Michel, Mrs. Palua Jean, Mrs. Carpentier, Mrs. Grossin, Messrs. Nivelle and Cassier: for Marseilles, Mr. and Mrs. Bentincks, Messrs. Buhming, Kauffmann, Mr. and Mrs. Campredon, Mr., Mrs. and Miss Harmand, Miss Downes and Mr. Chartrain and son.

Per *Guthrie*, from Sydney, &c., Mesdames C. Birks, Richards and child, J. Lesser, Messrs. C. Birks, C. Morris, T. Gross, B. Pratt, W. I. Cann, J. W. Cann, Dr. C. G. Powell, Lieut. Boyer, Messrs. W. H. Quinn, H. K. Baldeh, H. G. Garrett, F. C. Harvoymser, J. W. Barney, I. Beck, P. Moore, W. A. Barnett, C. E. Nicholson, W. H. Crombie, L. O. Moyer, M. D. Hudson, J. G. Edwards, P. T. Hock and A. Spalmbalg.

Per *Chelydra*, from Calcutta, &c., Lieuts. Blake and Cooper and Mr. E. Moniet.

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Per *Haiching*, from Coast Ports, Dr. G. Johnson.

Per *Feiching*, from Shanghai, Revs. William Hornsley and Antonio Alvarez and Messrs. J. T. Stavies and G. D. Musso.

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DEPARTED.

Per *Prinzess Irene*, from Hongkong, for Shanghai, Messrs. F. Bonnet, O. R. Ozorio, James Acheson, J. S. McGavin, G. Sturgis, A. W. Grant, Prinz Reuss, E. A. A. Bell, Mrs. S. E. Long, and Mr. Chas. A. Vale; for Nagasaki, Messrs. Reg. Baum Bushberg, F. Barretto, J. Goldman, and Mrs. Parsons and two children; for Kobe, Mr. G. W. Hope; for Yokohama, Messrs. J. S. Lee, A. Goecke, R. J. Kennedy, and Mr. and Mrs. M. Grote.

Per *Tamba Maru*, for London, &c., Mr. and Mrs. Geo. E. Caldwell and two children, Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Grace, Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Shepherd, Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Main and child, Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Field, Mr. and Mrs. M. B. Anderson, Mr. and Mrs. N. C. Brodie and four children, Miss Hart, Messrs. A. V. C. Gabell, I. Hansen, A. Berg, Mrs. A. Donald and two children, Mrs. J. T. Davis, Mrs. Shen, Messrs. Moses Chill, Wm. Nilson, G. Petersen, Carl Burmeister, Carl Heydenreich, H. Giberbaner, Miss E. Kilerby, Capt. Sakai, Messrs. J. Iho, N. Shimonio, Shibuya, M. Tanaka and Y. Okuno.

Per *Bombay* for London from Shanghai, Mr. and Mrs. Ogilvy and infant; from Hongkong, Mr. and Mrs. Mitchell and family, Mr. Joseph Wright, R.N. and 32 Naval Ratings.

Per *Loongsang*, for Manila, Miss Edith Goodman, Mr. J. C. R. Ewing, Miss Takasita, Mr. Kizmir, Miss Yasu Yokonichi, Messrs. E. A. Weber and T. Edward, Mrs. and Miss Wright, Messrs. Joseph Jasper, Louis Rome, Abram Rome, Wm. Attridge, Mrs. A. Cooke and children, Messrs. W. F. McLaughlin and B. Cameron, Dr. J. Ashton Russell, Messrs. Remedios, Chas. Longley, A. Cooke, C. T. Lincoln, J. T. Fleaherty and J. McCloy.

Per *Ernest Simons*, from Hongkong, for Saigon, Dr. H. Loro, Revs. Monnier, Rochot and Ackermann, Bro. Ernest, Messrs. P. Gorregues, A. Honyer, J. Guianvarch and J. Vergos; for Singapore, Mrs. Oustinnoff, Mr. and Mrs. H. Dallas, Mr. and Mrs. H. Godwin, Mr. and Mrs. W. Vallance, Mr. and Mrs. Montague and child, Misses E. De Worms, M. De Worms, Norton, Peel, Mackay, D. Albert, T. Albert, and V. Capel, Messrs. F. Brosch, Wilson, Metcalfe, Ferrell, Munro, Foster, Stanley, Palford, Montgomery, Shroot, Williams, Clarke, Blades, Martin and Bro. Aibert; for Colombo, Mr. B. Hermann; for Marseilles, Mrs. Liebert and two daughters, Mr. A. Trevoux, Right Rev. J. M. de Carvalho and Rev. M. de Carvalho.

Per *Yuensang*, for Manila, Mr. Ramon Lopez, Miss Felicidad Lopez, Masters Ramon Lopez, Henrique Lopez and Manuel Moreno, Mr. P. A. Williams, Dr. John T. Halsell, Messrs. W. B. Powell, F. Hurst, Oritaro Ikimoto, Archibald Mackillop, Mr. and Mrs. Luis M. Levy, Mr. L. W. Warne, Mrs. Kisi Honta, Mrs. Tatsu Kiemura, Mrs. Oshi Imasuga, Mrs. Tomo Yuura, Mrs. Matsuo, Mrs. San Yuura, Mrs. Otoku K. Mrs. Okeyo, Messrs. P. Sheeham, H. Richardson, Hiego Yuura, M. Tashiro, and H. Matsuo.

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